

U.S. seeks U.N. ceasefire in Liberia

WASHINGTON (R) — U.S. officials have said Tuesday that the United States wants the United Nations to seek a ceasefire. "We're actively consulting with other members of the Security Council with the objective of having a Security Council meeting on Liberia which we hope will involve the United Nations in trying to arrange a ceasefire," Assistant Secretary of State Herman Cohen said. In London, the British Foreign Office said Liberian rebels have captured Monrovia's diplomatic district of Mansa Point and are edging towards the executive mansion of President Samuel Doe. A spokesman said the Foreign Office had been in telephone contact with the British embassy at Mansa Point, where several foreign missions are located. He said embassy staff were safe. He said the rebels advancing on Doe's palace, where he has been holed up as rebels tightened their grip on the capital, were led by Prince Yormie Johnson.

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Arafat, Carter exchange messages

TUNIS (R) — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and former U.S. President Jimmy Carter exchanged messages this week on how to break the deadlock in the Middle East peace process. Palestinian officials in Tunis said Tuesday that Arafat was handed a message from Carter was handed to Arafat last Sunday in Baghdad by a U.S. envoy who returned with Arafat's reply.

UAE president visits Egypt

CAIRO (R) — United Arab Emirates (UAE) President Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahayan arrived in Cairo Tuesday on a three-day state visit for talks with President Hosni Mubarak. Mubarak greeted Sheikh Zayed at Cairo airport. They were due to travel by train to the Mediterranean city of Alexandria. Diplomats said their talks were likely to focus on Iraq's dispute with Kuwait over oil and territory. Iraq has accused the UAE, along with Kuwait, of undermining its economy by selling too much oil and driving down prices.

2 killed in soccer game in Beirut

BEIRUT (R) — A soccer game in Beirut's lawless southern suburbs ended with two people shot dead, a security source said Tuesday. The source said trouble started when a coach refused to let a substitute player take part in the first half of the game in the Chiyah district Sunday. The coach promised to let him play in the second half. But the unnamed man, in his twenties, lost his temper. "He first got into a fist-fight with the coach and then rushed to a nearby militia office, brought a Kalashnikov rifle, returned to the pitch and shot the coach," the source said. The source said the Shi'ite Amal militia, which controls part of the suburbs, arrested the killer — and put him in front of a firing squad at a nearby graveyard.

Gorbachev sued

MOSCOW (R) — A former KGB major-general who was stripped of his military titles and awards last month has filed a lawsuit against Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, the Komsomolskaya Pravda newspaper said Tuesday. Oleg Kalugin, punished for charging publicly that the Soviet security forces were still using Stalinist methods, also wants to take Prime Minister Nikolai Ryzhkov and KGB chief Vladimir Kryuchkov to court, the paper said. "Kalugin considers illegal the recent decree and resolution by government bodies depriving him of his military rank of major-general, USSR decorations and medals, and his pension," it said, but gave no further details of the suit.

Dublin envoy leaves Lebanon

BEIRUT (R) — Irish envoy Adrian McDaid left Lebanon Tuesday after waiting three weeks in vain for the release of Irish hostage Brian Keenan. McDaid, who represents Dublin in five Middle Eastern countries, arrived July 12 following media reports that a Western hostage, possibly Keenan, would be freed. He met several top Lebanese officials and Muslim clerics during his visit.

German talks given a twist

BONN (R) — Moscow has injected a new twist in the path to German unity by insisting the all-German parliament must ratify an agreement with the World War II allies before a return to full sovereignty. Western diplomats said Tuesday. The Soviet demand, which the diplomats said has supported by the other three World War II allies — the United States, Britain and France — could mean Chancellor Helmut Kohl's dream of full German sovereignty at unification on Dec. 2 just after the two Germanys unite. They are working at monthly "two-plus-four" talks with the two Germans to draw up guidelines by November on returning full sovereignty to the new state.

Iraq, Kuwait start talks

JEDDAH (Agencies) — Kuwaiti and Iraqi delegations met Tuesday in Saudi Arabia to negotiate their oil and border dispute. The Kuwaiti News Agency (KUNA) said Kuwaiti Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Abdullah Al Sabah and Izzat Ibrahim, vice-chairman of Iraq's ruling Revolutionary Command Council, were joined in their talks by other senior officials.

KUNA gave no details of the talks and Kuwaiti officials reached by telephone at the palace where the envoys are meeting declined to elaborate.

In Baghdad, the Iraqi News Agency (INA) said each side in the Jeddah talks gave its point of view on "issues contained in the memorandum presented by Iraq to the Arab League in July 15."

In the memorandum, Iraq accused Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) of sabotaging Arab economies by pumping too much oil and pushing down prices. Kuwait and the UAE rejected the charge.

"Iraq attends the Jeddah meet-

ing to regain its rights and not to hear new talk about 'fraternity and solidarity' which yields nothing," the Iraqi government newspaper Al Jumhuriya said.

Baghdad, which has moved thousands of troops to the Kuwait border, used Al Jumhuriya to repeat accusations that Kuwait had seized Iraqi territory and stolen oil worth \$2.4 billion.

Another official newspaper made clear Iraqi President Saddam Hussein expected Kuwait to yield to its demands for billions of dollars.

"Iraq's demands... are the essence of the meeting, therefore responding to these rights is undoubtedly the correct and appropriate ground for any serious dialogue," said Al Thawra.

The Washington Post reported Tuesday Iraq's buildup on the Kuwait border had reached almost 100,000 troops backed up by 300 tanks, artillery and bridging equipment. A Western diplomat in Kuwait told Reuters there were 30,000-40,000 troops.

Diplomatic sources, quoted by the AP said the build up of troops

dated from the beginning of the crisis but the number of soldiers involved had not been easy to determine. Earlier reports spoke of some 30,000 troops.

Gulf-based diplomats said Tuesday evening's first round of talks at a luxurious conference palace was only to lay the groundwork for weeks of difficult negotiations.

Sheikh Saad described the row as "a passing crisis" on arrival. "I am looking forward with an open heart to the meeting with Izzat Ibrahim," he was quoted as telling the Saudi Press Agency.

By contrast Ibrahim was beaming as he left his plane at Jeddah airport.

The talks, delayed for three days, were agreed only under heavy diplomatic pressure from Arab leaders. Iraq wants subsequent meetings to be held in Baghdad.

After arrival, the two delegations lunched separately and then met in the presence of Saudi Arabia's King Fahd and Crown Prince Abdullah.

Sources close to the negotia-

tions said Sheikh Saad and Ibrahim shook hands, embraced and kissed when they met.

Sheikh Saad and Ibrahim later went into a private session behind closed doors followed by a session with full delegations. The meetings lasted about two hours after which the negotiators were hosted at dinner by King Fahd.

No details were given on the negotiations but the sources said the delegations will continue meeting Wednesday.

Sheikh Saad was accompanied by Oil Minister Rashid Salem Al Ameri, Justice Minister Dhari Abdulla Al Othman and Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Sheikh Nasser Mohammad Al Ahmad.

Missing was the deputy premier and foreign minister, Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah.

Sheikh Sabah, foreign minister for 27 years, was accused by Baghdad media of being a U.S. agent and consistently sabotaging Iraqi-Kuwaiti relations. He did not publicly respond.

(Continued on page 2)

Mubarak opens OIC meeting with message of peace

CAIRO (Agencies) — President Hosni Mubarak opened an Islamic ministerial conference Tuesday with a call for reconciliation, cohesion and settlement of disputes by peaceful methods. As he spoke, Iran made a goodwill gesture towards Egypt, saying it will release Egyptian prisoners captured during the Iran-Iraq war (see page 2).

"Islamic solidarity must be the cornerstone of all our actions," Mubarak told ministers and other officials from the 45-member Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC).

"The challenges we face are too strong for us to handle individually," he said, citing recent and current changes on the international scene.

He appeared to refer to im-

proved American-Soviet relations, democratic reforms in Eastern European countries and plans for the European Community to unite economically in 1992.

"Islamic solidarity at this time is no longer a luxury but an indispensable necessity," Mubarak said in his 25-minute opening speech at the conference centre on the outskirts of Cairo.

More than 30 ministers are attending the five-day conference, the first of its kind in Cairo.

Mubarak said solidarity dictates "that we commit ourselves to settle disputes between members amicably... away from the logic of threats and war."

He urged OIC to play a greater role as peacemaker and spoke of Egyptian efforts to mediate disputes. He did not specify but he

apparently referred to his good offices in the conflict between Iraq and Kuwait over oil production and border demarcation as well as the long-standing quarrel between Syria and Iraq.

"We are in dire need of a revival in Islamic culture at a time when Islam witnesses unjust attacks from outside and misguided trends from inside," Mubarak told the ministers.

Mubarak demanded "respect for Arab and Islamic legal and historical rights in Jerusalem."

The 85-point agenda tabled by delegates does not touch on the Iraq-Kuwait dispute. Neither country's foreign minister has arrived in Cairo to attend the OIC session.

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Jordan urges Islamic action against Soviet immigration

CAIRO (Petra) — Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem said Tuesday that the eventual outcome of Soviet Jewish immigration to Palestine would be further Israeli extremism and "a severe blow to the equilibrium on which the peace efforts are based — land for peace."

Addressing the 19th meeting of the Organisation of Islamic Conference's foreign ministers which started here Tuesday, Qasem said Soviet Jewish immigration "enables Israel to create a fait accompli, whereby it will stretch its control and hegemony to new territories and will seize new natural resources in order to accommodate the immigrants at the expense of the Palestinian people."

Qasem, who was speaking on behalf of the Arab group, said:

"It is ridiculous to justify Soviet Jewish immigration as an issue of human rights since it is simply nonsense for anyone to exercise his human right at the expense of another."

Qasem said the current detente in international relations, the end of the cold war and prospects of creating a new international order "pose new and serious challenges to the Arab Nation, which should unite and rally its ranks in order to be able to face up to these challenges and to catch up with the new developments."

Qasem called on the Arab Nation to play a positive and active role worldwide by capitalising on the new world developments and interacting with them rather than remaining on the margin of such events.

Qasem stressed the need for translating decisions into actions,

saying "it has become vital for us not to limit our conferences to the mere formation of committees for formulating repeated decisions, but to mobilise our political will to turn such conferences into frameworks for reviewing the state of our nation."

He pointed out that the Palestine question "is currently passing through a very delicate stage, which calls on the whole international community to embark on an action capable of achieving an honourable settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict through holding an international peace conference under the auspices of the United Nations."

Qasem said the Palestinians had demonstrated genuine interest in establishing peace based on international legitimacy and

(Continued on page 2)

Israel renews threat after shelling

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israeli Defence Minister Moshe Arens warned Tuesday that Israel would take a role in the fighting between rival Shi'ite Muslim militias in Lebanon if the battles threatened Israeli interests.

Arens' remarks followed reports that Israeli tanks fired Monday on battling militiamen in a village just above Israel's self-proclaimed "security zone" in South Lebanon, killing at least 10 guerrillas and wounding 15.

An army spokesman, asked about the reported tank fire, would say only "we do not confirm or deny. We say the army is following the events with alertness."

The warring Hizbollah and Amal militias Tuesday agreed for a mercy ceasefire so that the red cross could evacuate the wounded from battlefields strewn with rotting corpses.

Mustapha Saad, leader of the Popular Liberation Army which controls Sidon, told reporters both agreed that fighting would stop at 7 a.m. (0400 GMT) Wednesday.

The fighting between Hizbollah and Amal erupted July 16. Some 186 people have been killed in these artillery battles and 560 wounded.

Much of the combat has occurred on the rim of the Israeli "security zone," which runs three to 18 kilometres deep north of the Israeli border. The zone is patrolled by Israeli-backed Lebanese militiamen of the South Lebanon Army (SLA) who number about 3,000 and about 1,000 Israeli soldiers.

Arens, of the right-wing Likud bloc, told Israeli radio Tuesday that "there is a danger that the situation will get worse and endanger our interests."

Hrawi vows to oust Aoun

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanese President Elias Hrawi said Tuesday his Syrian-backed government would be merciless in bringing Christian General Michel Aoun to heel but he ruled out the use of force.

"It is time for the government institutions to return to the state... We will not be lenient with the one who infringed the dignity of the state and the rights of the citizen," Hrawi said in a televised broadcast on the eve of Army Day Wednesday.

Aoun, holding out in the presidential palace in the Christian enclave of east Beirut, refuses to recognise the authority of Hrawi who was elected last November.

At the head of 15,000 mainly Christian troops of the Lebanese army, Aoun last week rejected a plan to implement an Arab League-brokered peace accord for Lebanon.

"He who rejects the reconciliation is against Lebanon, its state and army," Hrawi said. "We will not have mercy on he who tries to influence the role of this institution."

Hrawi's 15,000 mainly Muslim troops, led by General Emile Lahoud, began cutting off fuel to Aoun-held territory Monday as part of sanctions ordered by Hrawi to drive Aoun out.

"I have always chosen the path of logic and dialogue," Hrawi said Tuesday. "Blood only leads to more blood and destruction. Violence only leads to violence. My hand is extended to each and everyone of you to cross to peace... and unity."

Lahoud, in a similar statement, vowed to keep his troops out of political rows.

"The army will not be involved in the local political struggle. It will always stay a guarantee and a referee for everyone," he said.

\$58m-\$70m fertiliser plant with Japanese equity planned

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Two government-owned Jordanian companies and a consortium of four Japanese companies are discussing the possibility of setting up a fertiliser plant at Aqaba, informed sources said Tuesday.

The total investment in the project will be in the region of \$58 million to \$70 million, according to one of the sources. "Discussions are under way, and it is expected that the project will be one of the issues to be reviewed during this month's visit of (Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki) Kaifu," the source told the Jordan Times.

Kaifu, the first Japanese prime minister to visit the Kingdom, arrives here Aug. 21 on a two-day visit as a part of a Middle East tour. A high-level delegation, including several senior officials in the economy and industry sectors, will accompany the prime minister.

"The equity of the proposed company will be \$24 million of

which the Japanese consortium is expected to contribute 60 per cent," according to another source. Jordan hopes to raise the rest of the required investment through soft loans from external sources, most probably Japanese, he added.

An official at the Japanese embassy said he did not have any immediate details of the project.

Mitsubishi, one of the biggest companies in Japan, is leading the consortium. Names of the other companies were not immediately available.

The Jordan Phosphate Mines Company (JPMC) and the Arab Potash Company (APC) are the Jordanian counterparts for the Japanese consortium in the proposed project, which will have an annual production capacity of 300,000 tonnes of compound fertiliser made from phosphate. Most of the production will be marketed in Japan, according to initial project proposals.

The idea of a joint Japanese-Jordanian fertiliser project was launched in late 1988 during

the visit to the Kingdom of a delegation representing the Japanese private sector, industry sources said. Japanese officials said at the time that they were encouraging Japanese companies to enter into direct agreements with Jordanian industries to set up new facilities and make arrangements for sales of Jordanian products abroad. Japanese conglomerates can promote Jordanian exports through their influential international offices under reciprocal arrangements with the Kingdom, they noted.

Phosphate and related fertiliser products, the mainstay of Jordanian exports, earned the Kingdom a total of \$542 million in foreign exchange in 1989, with JPMC exporting a record of 6.4 million tonnes of phosphates worth \$434 million and the APC exporting 1.3 million tonnes of potash worth \$108 million.

In addition, the JPMC also produced another one million tonnes of phosphates for local processing at its fertiliser producing facility at Aqaba.

Uprising leadership moves to reduce 'collaborator' attacks

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Leaders of the Palestinian uprising announced Tuesday they were forming a "higher judicial committee" to try to reduce the killings by Palestinians of Arabs suspected of collaborating with the Israeli occupation authorities.

The announcement in a leaflet distributed in the occupied territories signalled the first national institution to be founded for the would-be State of Palestine.

The uprising leaders made the move amid a rise in the

killings of Palestinians suspected of collaborating with the Israeli authorities.

In July, 15 Palestinians were killed by unknown assailants but believed to be fellow Arabs for informing or collaborating in other ways, according to figures compiled by the Associated Press.

In contrast, three Palestinians died in July of wounds sustained in clashes with Israeli troops, and a fourth Arab was killed in a prison breakout, according to the Israeli Information Centre for

Human Rights in the Occupied Territories.

The four fatalities constitute the lowest one-month death toll since the uprising began in the West Bank and Gaza Strip in December 1987, officials at the human right group said.

Throughout the uprising, 725 Palestinians have been killed by Israeli soldiers and civilians and 45 Israelis have been killed by Palestinians. A further 243 Palestinians have been slain by

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Trinidad coup group frees prime minister

PORT-OF-SPAIN (Agencies) — Prime Minister Arthur A.N. Robinson was freed by his captors Tuesday and "is in good spirits," Attorney General Anthony Smart announced on state radio.

Smart said Robinson was the only one of the 41 hostages released.

"We continue to pray for the safe return of the rest of the hostages," he said.

The rebel leader, Yasin Abu Bakr, earlier accused the government of trying to stage its own coup. He said there was a split within the government between those who support Robinson and those who "want the prime minister dead."

Abu Bakr said he was ready to free Robinson and had asked the armed forces commander to come and pick him up from the new state.

parliament building. Robinson said Monday he had agreed to resign, call elections in 90 days and grant his captors amnesty in exchange for the hostages' freedom.

"These are statements of people being held at gunpoint," said government spokesman Gregory Shaw. "People are made to make statements."

Abu Bakr responded by accusing government officials of trying to take over Trinidad and Tobago while Robinson was being held.

Robinson, captured when rebels stormed the parliament building, told the CANA late Monday that an agreement had been reached and urged the army commander to carry out its terms.

There are mounting indications that security forces object to granting amnesty to Abu Bakr and his followers.

"What would be the future of a country where someone takes up arms against the elected government and then goes scot-free?" one senior security officer, who declined to be named, told Reuters.

"This is supposed to be a democracy. We have laws that apply to everybody," he said. His statement appeared to reflect majority sentiment in the 5,000-strong army and 1,500-strong police force.

The rebels have said they had wired explosives to the prime minister and several of his cabinet members.

Robinson, who was reported by witnesses to have been wounded in the leg after rebels stormed parliament, said in the CANA interview he was "slightly battered but I'm ok."

A rebel spokesman told Reu-

ters Tuesday that food was running out in the parliament building and insurgents and hostages were reduced to eating carrots and "scrounging for scraps."

U.S. black civil rights leader Jesse Jackson said Tuesday he was willing to mediate the tense hostage standoff in Trinidad's attempted coup.

Rebel leader Yasin Abu Bakr told Reuters in a telephone interview that he wanted Jackson and former President Jimmy Carter to negotiate on the release of Robinson and other officials seized last Friday.


Jackson, at a news conference mainly devoted to urging President George Bush to seek United Nations forces to stop the Liberian civil war, said he would be in touch with the State Department about the request.

Summit to convene in Cairo Nov. 24

CAIRO (AP) — A regular Arab League summit will be held in Cairo Nov. 24-26 to consider Arab and international affairs, Chadi Klibi, secretary general of the Arab League, said Tuesday. He disclosed this to reporters after he met with President Hosni Mubarak to discuss preparations for the summit, the first in Egypt in more than 13 years. An Arab summit in Baghdad, Iraq, last May, agreed to a proposal by Mubarak that Arab leaders meet annually in November. Cairo was chosen as the site for the coming parley. A foreign ministers' meeting to prepare for the summit also will be held in Cairo. Klibi said that the Arab League headquarters will move from Tunisia to Egypt in September, but that the transfer will not be completed until July 1991. Klibi and Mubarak met on the sidelines of the Organisation of Islamic Conference's (OIC) foreign ministers meeting, which the Egyptian president inaugurated Tuesday. Mubarak also met with Lebanese Prime Minister Salim Hoss, who doubles as foreign minister and is attending the Islamic conference.

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U.S., Israel open talks on economy amid housing crisis

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — A delegation from the United States, Israel's vital aid donor, has opened talks with officials about the Jewish state's deepening economic problems.

The half-yearly meeting of the U.S.-Israel Joint Economic Development group took place while Israel searched for ways to pay for a flood of Soviet Jewish immigration that is expected to bring in 150,000 people this year.

Ariel Sharon, the housing minister in Israel's new right-wing government, asked the cabinet Sunday to approve a five-year \$13.5 billion housing plan.

Finance Minister Yitzhak Mordechai had already proposed raising this year's \$32 billion budget by \$1.25 billion for extra housing — most of it to be financed by increasing the size of the budget deficit. He said the country could not afford Sharon's scheme.

The finance ministry said the economic implications of the immigration would dominate the talks, which involved some academics as well as government representatives.

While emphasising that the delegation can make no decisions, the U.S. embassy said factors such as the future of Washington's \$3 billion in annual aid were bound to be raised.

The U.S. group, headed by Under-Secretary of State Richard McCormack, planned to meet Mordechai and Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir Thursday.

"The United States has a very important role in the Israeli economy and it is very important to continue to have the support of the United States if we want stability in the economy," said Moshe Nahum of the Israeli

Manufacturers Association. "It is a very sensitive period, a very difficult period for the overall economy," said Nahum, whose organisation will address the U.S.-Israeli meeting.

Israel's need for additional funds coincides with U.S. efforts to reduce its own budget deficit. The \$1.2 billion in annual economic grants and \$1.8 billion in military grants to Israel has already come under question in Congress.

Israel also wants Washington to guarantee \$400 million in housing loans, which would reduce Israeli interest costs. The White House has demanded Israel provide as yet unspecified guarantees that the funds would not be used to settle Jews in the occupied territories.

Modai is looking for the private sector to take a major role in providing for the immigrants, while Sharon believes the government should take charge.

The economic problems could make Israel more vulnerable to U.S. pressure to make concessions to revive chances for Israeli-Palestinian peace talks.

Foreign Minister David Levy is due in Washington August 9 for talks with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and diplomats said the subject of U.S. financial assistance was certain to arise.

Meanwhile, hundreds of Israeli families are seeking to move to Jewish settlements in the occupied West Bank because of housing shortage, settlement leaders said Tuesday.

"Primarily in the last three weeks, we have received hundreds of applications in our area alone," said Benny Katzover, head of the "Samaria" regional

council, a settlers' organisation including 32 settlements in the northern West Bank.

Shlomo Gal, head of the Gush Etzion regional council, expressed frustration over his inability to accommodate all the applicants.

"The situation is unacceptable, we are helpless," Gal, who represents three settlements north of the city of Hebron, said in an interview.

"It takes too long, at least two years, to build housing in 'this country'. We won't be able to give them all a place."

Settlers have sought to draw Israelis to the West Bank and Gaza Strip in an effort to assert what they claim are Jews' historic rights to the occupied territories.

Some 75,000 Jewish settlers now live in the occupied territories among the 1.7 million Palestinians.

Katzover said rental prices for three-room apartments in the settlement of Ariel have more than doubled from \$150 to \$400 in the last few months.

"We are building some 500-600 housing units now in my area, and all of them have been sold," he said.

The housing crush sweeping Israel was sparked several months ago by the massive influx of Soviet Jews which has already reached about 61,000 this year and may include another 90,000 by year's end.

The crisis has caused rental prices to climb sharply, displacing young couples and disadvantaged families.

This has led to some violent protests and the erection of scores of "tent cities" throughout the country.



'UPRISING EQUIPMENT': Some of what the Israeli army described as 'equipment' used by an underground Palestinian group known as 'Revolutionary Security Apparatus' in a subterranean hideout the Nabulus market this week.

U.S. considers easing Egypt's \$12.3b debt

WASHINGTON (R) — The United States is considering a request from Egypt to forgive or restructure Cairo's \$12.3-billion debt to Washington, U.S. defence officials said Monday.

"The Egyptians have asked for a restructuring of debts, including forgiveness. It is under discussion and no decision has been made yet," one of the officials told Reuters.

The officials, who asked not to be identified, said the matter was discussed during a recent Washington visit by Egyptian military Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Safiedin Abn Shanaf.

"This is not the first time that Egypt has requested relief," said one official.

The country has bought billions of dollars in U.S. military equipment. Egypt owes the United States \$12.3 billion and more than half of that — \$6.7 billion — is military debt.

Published reports have said Egypt is in a growing financial squeeze over more than \$40 billion in total foreign debt, including repayment of debt related to U.S. military aid.

The defence officials were asked to comment on reports in Egyptian newspapers that U.S. officials told Abu Shanaf that

Washington was preparing to forgive the debt.

"Obviously, we are willing to consider proposals to work with Egypt to alleviate its payment burden. But there has been no decision," said one Bush administration official, who also asked not to be identified.

The annual U.S. aid package of about \$2.3 billion to Egypt is second only to the assistance that Washington provides to Israel.

Some members of Congress have questioned whether the United States should continue high-level defence aid to two Middle East countries at a time of shrinking U.S. budgets and Eastern European need for American financial help.

The Egyptian air force is equipped with sophisticated U.S.-made fighter jets and Egypt will become the first foreign producer of American M-1 tanks in a \$2-billion deal with General Dynamics Corp. Egypt is scheduled to produce up to 555 of the tanks.

The Defence Department also announced in January that it intended to sell 24 Apache attack helicopters, 494 Hellfire air-to-ground missiles, launchers, spare engines and other equipment to Egypt for \$488 million.

Kabul names acting president

ISLAMABAD (AP) — A veteran politician with links to Afghanistan's ousted monarchy and its Communist-style government has been named his country's acting president, state-run radio said Tuesday.

Kabul Radio, monitored in Islamabad, said Deputy Vice President Abdul Rahim Hatif will head the government while President Najibullah is away on a brief trip to the Soviet Union.

Like Najibullah's trip, Hatif's appointment as acting president came as a surprise.

Such appointments are rarely made during a short trip by the president, and Hatif's selection apparently bypassed Najibullah's second-in-command, Sultan Ali Keshkmand.

It was unclear who had the authority to make the appointment.

Najibullah, who uses only one name, flew to Moscow Sunday for some official meetings and a medical checkup. The unexpected visit led to speculation that the United States and the Soviet Union had reached an agreement on how to end the 12-year-old war in Afghanistan.

U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze planned to discuss Afghanistan during two days of talks in the Siberian city of Irkutsk beginning Wednesday.

Keshkmand, seen as a hardline member of the ruling party, was appointed two months ago to the newly created post of first vice president.

The 64-year-old Hatif is not a member of the ruling Hezb-e-Eslami — Party of the Homeland, which until last month was known as the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan.

But Hatif was brought into the Soviet-backed government in 1987 as the party sought to broaden its base of support and initiated efforts to distance itself from its communist past.

Hatif had served under former King Zahir Shah, who was overthrown by his cousin Mohammad Daoud in 1973 and has been living in exile in Italy.

Daoud was killed during the 1978 coup that installed a communist government and brought the Red Army into Afghanistan a year later.

Iran ready to free Egyptian prisoners

CAIRO (Agencies) — Iran is ready to release Egyptian soldiers taken prisoner during the Gulf war as soon as a private Egyptian delegation visits Tehran, an Iranian official said Tuesday.

"We are ready to release the remaining Egyptian prisoners of war as a gift from our people to the Egyptian people," Mohammad Ali Tashkiri, head of Iran's delegation to a meeting of Islamic foreign ministers in Cairo, told Reuters.

He said the prisoners would be released "as soon as a popular and scientific delegation visited Tehran."

He did not say who might make the trip or when it would take place but indicated the delegation would not include government officials. He said Tehran and Cairo had not been in direct contact over the issue.

Egyptian Foreign Ministry sources have estimated the number of prisoners at several thousand. Almost two million Egyptians worked in Iraq during the 1980-88 war with Iran.

Relations between Egypt and Iran worsened after Iran's 1979 revolution and Cairo's subsequent offer of sanctuary to the ousted Shah. They now have no diplomatic links.

Egypt previously said it would seek freedom for the prisoners through the Red Cross, the Un-

ited Nations and Iraq but not through direct talks.

Iran, which had a ceasefire agreement with Iraq in 1988, released 16 Egyptian captives that year and another 20 last March. Egyptian officials said they had no exact figure for the remaining prisoners.

Tashkiri said the release will take place during a forthcoming visit to Tehran by a team of Egyptian clerics and civic leaders. He gave no date.

The release may be the first step towards normalisation of Cairo-Tehran relations. Iran severed diplomatic ties in 1979 after Egypt signed the 1978 treaty with Israel.

On Western hostages in Lebanon, Tashkiri hinted that Iran could be persuaded to help towards their release if the United States put pressure on Israel to free Arab and Iranian prisoners it holds.

"For humanitarian reasons, Iran used its moral influence with some quarters in Lebanon to secure the release of some hostages," Tashkiri said.

"But the United States has not exerted any pressures on Israel to free Arab and Iranian hostages it abducted in open daylight."

He did not say how many Arab and Iranian prisoners he wanted Israel to release.

Moves to reduce attacks

(Continued from page 1)

fellow unknown assailants, the AP said.

The creating of a judicial committee appeared to be a first step by local Palestinians towards creating a bureaucracy to deal with internal problems.

Most Palestinians reject dealings with Israeli police and military courts, especially since the 1988 declaration by the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) of an independent state.

The leaflet said the higher judicial committee "will establish legal procedures for the State of Palestine, including those which pertain to interrogations" of suspected collaborators.

It said details of the committee's operation would be announced soon in a special leaflet. It added that until then "correct methods" should be used in interrogations and that members of one faction should not investigate the activities of other factions.

The leaflet condemned torture in interrogations, saying "it is incomprehensible that we should use such methods when we ourselves are the victims of such methods at the hands of the Israelis."

Past statements by PLO officials have sought to limit killings by wildcat groups in villages or refugee camps. Israel has tried to

use the killings to discredit the PLO, frequently describing the deaths as political murders meant to end dissent.

'Levy murder plot'

Also Tuesday, three Palestinians from the West Bank town of Jericho were charged with plotting to assassinate Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy.

Levy often commutes through Jericho from his home in Beit Shean in northern Israel.

The three Palestinians, all truck drivers, were charged in a West Bank military court. Authorities said the three were arrested a month ago.

A military court in Lod also charged a 40-year-old mother of 12 children with carrying messages and money for Fateh.

The court said Marian Musa Atyia from the village of Sur Baher within Jerusalem was recruited into Fateh by one of her sons.

Palestinians in the occupied Gaza Strip told Israeli Defence Minister Moshe Arens Tuesday not to misread the relative calm there and to seek peace talks with the PLO.

"We refuse to be an alternative to the PLO and we told Arens that the PLO is the sole representative of the Palestinian people," Rafah Mayor Abdul Hadi Idharr told Reuters after a two-hour meeting with Arens.

Jordan

(Continued from page 1)

the relevant U.N. resolutions, and had done everything possible to facilitate it. Yet, Israel has shown further extremism and intransigence and has wasted a precious opportunity for reaching an honourable settlement, he said.

Qasem praised Iraq for its genuine willingness to make peace with Iran saying that Baghdad had stretched its hand to Tehran to make peace. He voiced hope that the two Muslim countries, "which are now closer than any time before, will be able to establish lasting peace and open a new page of brotherly relations between them."

Qasem also lauded the efforts made by some Arab countries to heal the rift between Iraq and Kuwait.

Jeddah talks

(Continued from page 1)

Western diplomats say Kuwait is ready to pay Iraq billions of dollars to drop claims to disputed territory. But it is uncertain whether Iraq would accept.

Baghdad has never accepted a boundary approved by the Arab League decades ago.

Iraq is trying to develop the waterway, leading to the port of Umm Qasr, as an alternative to the Shatt Al Arab river route to Basra. Iraq and Iran, putting out peace feelers after their 1980-88 war, dispute sovereignty over the Shatt.

Diplomats predicted that Kuwait, followed by other Gulf states, would eventually bow to Iraqi demands to write off credits extended to Baghdad during the war. They lent Baghdad an estimated \$30 billion.

Kuwait and its Gulf allies are also expected to come up with more cash to reconstruct Iraq's war-torn economy.

Iraq says imperialism behind media reports

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq, locked in dispute with neighbouring Kuwait, accused the West Tuesday of mounting a hostile media campaign to justify an Israeli attack on vital Iraqi installations.

"The imperialist countries once again try to shuffle the cards with their guided publicity using Iraq's position towards OPEC's oil policy as an excuse and a cover for a new wave of distortion and intrigue," the Iraqi News Agency quoted an official spokesman as saying.

The spokesman said the campaign was aimed at "providing an appropriate cover for their strong ally Israel to strike at Iraq's vital installations."

The international media has accused Iraq of using the threat of armed force to back its demands for compensation from Kuwait for cheating on its OPEC quota and driving down oil prices.

The Washington Post reported Tuesday that Iraq had moved almost 100,000 troops near the Kuwaiti border, along with 300 tanks, 300 artillery pieces and

bridging equipment.

Iraqi and Kuwaiti envoys were due to meet in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, Tuesday to start talks to resolve their dispute.

Following the first report last week of troop movements, OPEC ministers meeting in Geneva agreed to try to raise oil prices by \$3 a barrel to \$21.

Iraq's official media has made no mention of any troop movements. President Saddam Hussein told Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak last week that Iraq did not intend to use force.

Israel bombed an Iraqi nuclear reactor in June 1981, alleging that it was about to produce nuclear weapons.

Earlier this year Baghdad accused the West of paving the way for an Israeli attack following criticism of its armaments programme and human rights violations.

"We warn those who need a warning and say again that he who attacks Iraq has to expect blows that will rock its entity," the spokesman said.

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PROGRAMME ONE

15:30 Koran
15:40 Programme review
15:45 Children's programme
17:30 Educational programme
18:00 News summary in Arabic
18:05 Cairo news message
18:30 Local programme
20:30 News in Arabic
20:30 Arabic series
21:30 Arabic programme
23:00 News in Arabic
23:40 Play

PROGRAMME TWO

18:05 L'Ami Marpassant
19:00 News in French
19:15 French varieties
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:30 News in Arabic
20:30 You Rang M'Lord
21:10 Documentary: "Good Evening Jordan"
22:00 News in English
22:20 Summer Lease

PRAYER TIMES

04:17 (Sunrise) Dhuha
05:45 (Sunrise) Dhuha
12:42 Dhuhr
12:42 'Asr
19:38 'Asr
21:07 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Sweileh, Tel. 810740
Annunciation of God Church, Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terzantina Church Tel. 622366
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541
Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 628543
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 772261
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
Assman International Church Tel. 605326
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817, 654932

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Slight rise in temperatures will occur and winds will be northwesterly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Min./max. temp. 18 / 32
Amman

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Aqaba

Deserts 25 / 38
Jordan Valley 24 / 38

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 30, Aqaba 36. Humidity readings: Amman 33 per cent, Aqaba 23 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Mohammad Al Shawish 658878
Dr. Issam Al Kayed 890405
Dr. Khalid 'Edis 657129
Dr. Abdul Aziz Abu Khalaf 622520
First Pharmacy 661912
Ferdows pharmacy 778336
Al Asema pharmacy 637053
Naioukh pharmacy 623672
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shamsi pharmacy 637660

AMMAN:
Dr. Abdul Majid Sababih (—)
Al Shura'a pharmacy (985238)
ZARQA:
Dr. Yehya Al Tairi (—)
Khalifah pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Emergency 630341
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 891228
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 020800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage Complaints 897467
Amman Municipality Complaints 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone Repairs 623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Company RJ Flight Information 08-53200
Queen Alia Int'l. Airport 08-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32

Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn

Akileh Maternity, J. Amn 642411/2
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Palestine, Shamsi 6641714
Shamsi Hospital 669131
University Hospital 845845
Al-Musharraf Hospital 6672719
The Islamic, Abdali 66612737
Al-Ahli, Abdali 6641646
Italian, Al-Muhajirah 7771013
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 7711126
Army, Marka 891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50
Amal Hospital 674153
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983322
Zarqa National Hospital (09)91071
Ibn Saud Hospital (09)966732
IBRAID:
Princess Basma Hospital (02)273555
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)272225
Don Al Nafes Hospital (02)247100
AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) Information Dept.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

10:00 Damascus (RJ)
10:30 Jeddah (RJ)
10:30 Larnaca (RJ)
10:45 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
10:45 Madinet, Geneva (RJ)
10:45 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
10:45 Cairo (RJ)
10:45 London (RJ)
10:45 Madrid (RJ)
10:45 Baghdad (RJ)
10:45 Paris (RJ)
10:45 Madinet, Geneva (RJ)
10:45 Frankfurt (RJ)
10:45 Brussels, Rome (RJ)
10:45 Aqaba (RJ)
10:45 Paris (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

09:25 Baghdad (IA)
10:00 Baghdad (JAL) (TA)
10:40 Larnaca (CY)
11:00 Jeddah (SV)
11:00 Benghazi (LN)
14:05 Cairo (MS)
14:15 Jeddah, Sana'a (TY)
15:35 Kuwait (KU)
17:30 Dubai (EK)
18:55 Bahrain (TK)
20:25 Sams (LH)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

12:00 Cairo (RJ)
12:15 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
12:20 Tunis, Casablanca (RJ)
13:00 London (RJ)
14:00 Baghdad (RJ)
17:15 Aqaba (RJ)
20:40 Kuwait (RJ)
21:00 Riyadh (RJ)
21:10 New Delhi (RJ)
21:20 Cairo (RJ)
21:45 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
22:45 Calcutta, Bangkok (RJ)
03:30 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

08:35 Larnaca, Zurich (SR)
09:15 Beirut (ME)
10:25 Rome (AZ)
11:00 Baghdad (IA)
11:45 Larnaca (CY)
12:40 Jeddah (SV)
14:05 Benghazi (LN)
14:15 Jeddah, Sana'a (TY)
15:35 Kuwait (KU)
17:30 Dubai (EK)
18:55 Bahrain (TK)
20:25 Sams (LH)

MARKET PRICES

Upplower price in file per kg

Apple 700 / 600
Apricots 600 / 500
Bananas 600 / 500
Beans (Mushrooms) 450 / 400
Cabbage 130 / 90
Carrot 240 / 200
Cauliflower 250 / 200
Corn 180 / 104
Cucumbers (large) 100 / 80
Cucumbers (small) 220 / 180
Eggplant 120 / 80
Figs 750 / 650
Gardic 1100 / 900
Grapefruit 340 / 280
Grapes 280 / 220
Lemon 400 / 400
Mallow 100 / 50
Marrow (large) 100 / 50
Marrow (small) 200 / 150
Onion (dry) 200 / 180
Orange 450 / 300
Peas 450 / 400
Peas 650 / 550
Pe

Universities in Jordan to absorb 10,395 students

AMMAN (J.T.) — The four Jordanian universities will this year accept a total of 10,395 students in various specialisations and colleges, up from 8,000 last year, according to an announcement by Minister of Education and Higher Education Mohammad Hamdan.

"In view of the current economic difficulties which prevent parents from sending their children abroad for higher education, and in a bid to help save hard currency for Jordan, the Council of Higher Education (CHE) has decided to increase the number of students at Jordanian universities," the minister said at a press conference.

In his statement the minister disclosed that the University of Jordan will accept 3,900 students, Yarmouk University 3,700, Muta University 1,320 and the Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST) 845 students.

The minister said that these four universities would also accept post graduate students for their masters and doctorate degrees at the rate of 1,712 at the University of Jordan, 415 at Yarmouk University, 100 at Muta and 115 at JUST.

Funds allocated for vocational training

AMMAN (J.T.) — In a bid to solve the problem of unemployment in Jordan the government has allocated JD 360,000 for training unskilled workers to work as drivers and hotel staff with the ultimate objective of replacing non-Jordanians now working in the field.

According to an official statement Tuesday, Prime Minister Mudar Badran announced the government's decision to allocate JD 305,000 for developing a centre for training drivers — located at Al Hashemiyeh near Zarqa — and JD 55,000 to develop the Hotel Management Training Centre at Sahab near Amman.

"The allocations were made in conformity with the government's policy of training Jordanians to take up various jobs and reduce the number of unemployed people in the country," the statement said.

It said that the Hashemiyeh centre would train drivers for lorries, mini trucks and other vehicles which are driven by non-Jordanians at present.

"The funds will be used to purchase three lorries and spare parts for the existing seven trucks and four buses which are being used for training purposes," the statement added.

It said that the Hotel Management Training Centre at Sahab would train people to work in the tourism industry, especially in hotels, and to take the place of non-Jordanians employed in this sector.

Training at the centre takes between one and two years. Students are taught to prepare and serve food and drinks and hotel catering.

Job seekers in the country will be accepted for such training.

Government announces 17 names promised reinstatement

AMMAN (J.T.) — In an unprecedented move, the government Tuesday announced the names of 17 citizens who had been dismissed from public office for political reasons and said that arrangements would soon be made for their reinstatement.

A statement issued by the Civil Service Commission (CSC) which arrange for the appointment of civil servants said that the following employees will have their jobs back as a first batch of a long list of citizens who had lost their jobs on similar grounds: Nazih Hamdan, Mohammad Habashneh, Jihad Jaouni, Adib Al Sayed, Fahmi Zoubi, Youssef Asfour, Najeh Badawi, Karim Al Qaisi, Abdul Jabbar Barakat Al Rawashdeh, Taha Fiftani, Ghaleb Abul Adas, Tawfiq Rashed, Moham-

mad Inteirch, Ibrahim Alamat, Mashour Ali Jaradat, Abdul Ilah Al Ota and Abdul Malek Abul Ajeh.

The Ministry of Education, earlier this year, announced that more than 150 men and women teachers dismissed on political grounds had been reinstated in conformity with the government's directives.

Prime Minister Mudar Badran had repeatedly pledged before Parliament that all those who had lost their jobs for political reasons would get them back pending arrangements on the part of the government offices planning table which specifies the number of vacancies available in every government department.

The CSC also announced Tuesday that its staff was currently processing the names of 1,200 men and women teachers to be appointed at schools in the Kingdom. It said that names would be published in the local press at the beginning of the coming week.

Lists of teachers, including those dismissed for political reasons, will be published in the press in the coming month, the CSC said.

In another development, minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Ali Al Faqr said that 12 citizens will be appointed in the ministry's various departments immediately.

A ministry official said that 100 more citizens would be absorbed by the ministry's various departments.

Jordan, Syria to cooperate in veterinary, agricultural fields

AMMAN (J.T.) — Minister of Agriculture Suleiman Arabiyat and his Syrian counterpart Mohammad Ghabash Tuesday discussed ways for promoting bilateral cooperation in agricultural fields and the production of seeds and vaccines and training of personnel involved in the farming sector.

Ghabash, who along with ministers of agriculture from other Arab countries had attended the Arab Organisation for Agricultural Development (AOAD) meetings in Amman, also agreed with Arabiyat on a number of points designed to stimulate trade exchanges between Syria and Jordan.

An official statement at the end of the meeting said that they had reviewed working papers and decided to set up committees to conduct studies on increasing the exchange of information about marketing crops and coordinating the two countries' efforts in marketing fields.

The statement said that the two sides would request the Jordan Agricultural Marketing and Processing Company (JAMPCO) and the Syrian state establishment for vegetables and fruits to promote such exchanges and increase the volume of products exchanged.

The two sides also agreed to hold meetings of representatives of ministries of agriculture in Jordan and Syria to work out a programme for exporting seeds, fruit trees and other farming inputs.

The committees will also deal with the exchange of vaccines and veterinary medicines and study ways for benefitting from each other's experience.

The statement said that the Syrian side had offered to train three Jordanians on annual basis in veterinary field, vaccinating

animals and fruit tree pruning.

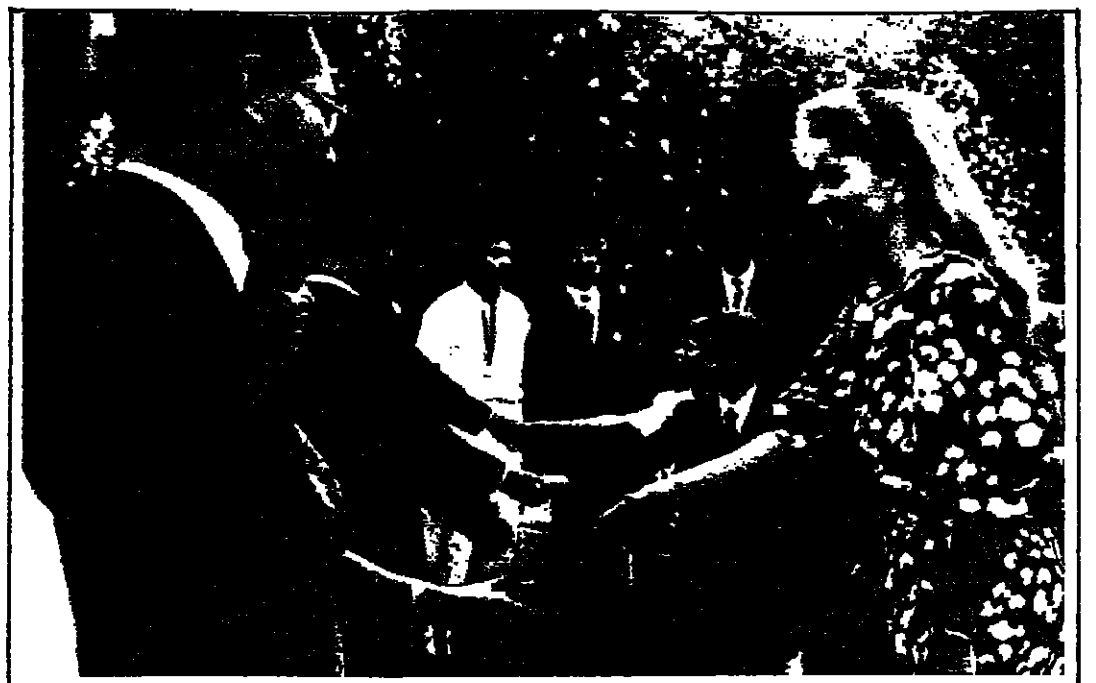
The two sides agreed to hold another meeting in Damascus in the coming month when a working paper on investment in agricultural fields will be discussed by specialists.

According to the statement, the meetings took place in implementation of resolutions taken by the Jordanian-Syrian Higher Joint Committee in its last session.

The higher committee is expected to convene again, this time in Damascus, under the chairmanship of the prime ministers of Syria and Jordan. The Jordanian delegation to the committee meeting is expected to travel to Damascus in the first week of the coming month.



Suleiman Arabiyat



DISABLED ATHLETES HONOURED: Her Majesty Queen Noor received at Al Nadwa Palace the Jordanian team of children who took part in the European summer special Olympics for the mentally handicapped last week and congratulated them on their outstanding achievement. The Jordanian team, of 15 members, included mentally handicapped athletes who won a total of 17 medals: seven gold, four silver and six bronze. Queen Noor, along with Prince Raad Ben

Zeid, Prince Zeid Ben Raad, three coaches and one official accompanied the team to the games held in Scotland July 21-27. The team members competed in track and field events and in basketball games, with the Queen attending several of the competitions. At the reception, at Al Nadwa Palace, the Queen commended the players on their performance and paid tribute to their coaches' efforts. Present at the reception were the children of the royal family.

Hilayel urges mosques preachers to stress on harmony, cooperation

ZARQA (Petra) — Mosque preachers employed by the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs met here Tuesday with the ministry's Secretary-General Ahmad Hilayel and presented him with requests about their jobs and aired their complaints about various issues.

Hilayel cautioned the preachers against giving lengthy sermons at Friday's prayers in mosques and advised them to stick to topics of concern to the

public with particular attention to matters that tend to help cement cohesion within the Jordanian family.

"Jordan, along with the Arab countries, is now facing challenges and criminal conspiracies posed to them and to their holy places and the Palestinian land is confronting waves of new Jewish immigrants coming to settle in the Arab land," said Hilayel.

He said that sermons should urge affection, harmony and cooperation among Muslims, especially in view of these difficult times so that the Arab Nation can thwart Israel's conspiracies.

"Preaching is a sacred mission and not a mere occupation like others, and it is heavy responsibility before God and the public," said Hilayel.

Following the meeting, Hilayel inspected the Department of Awqaf.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

King congratulates Swiss president

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday sent a cable to the President of the Swiss Confederation Arnold Koller, congratulating him on his country's national day. The King wished President Koller continued good health and happiness and the Swiss people further progress and prosperity.

Official heads for Damascus talks

AMMAN (Petra) — Ministry of Industry and Trade's Secretary-General Ibrahim Badran Tuesday left for Damascus on a several day visit to Syria during which he will hold talks with Syrian officials on means of enhancing economic and trade relations between the two countries.

Investment draft law discussed

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Industry and Trade held a meeting Tuesday under the chairmanship of Secretary-General Ibrahim Badran to discuss a new investment-encouraging draft law. Participants at the meeting discussed the investment environment in Jordan. They decided to meet again within the coming two weeks to present proposals on the draft law.

Fast mail service between Jordan and Syria

AMMAN (Petra) — The fast mail delivery service will be applied between Jordan and Syria as of Wednesday, according to Director-General of the Post Offices and Postal Savings Corporation Abdullah Al Jazi. He said the service would be applied at the beginning to mail sent from Amman to Damascus only and will include mail sent from Damascus to Amman as soon as Syria starts applying the fast mail delivery service.

Batch of People's Army graduates

RAMTHA (Petra) — A new batch of People's Army recruits graduated Tuesday in Ramtha district. One of the graduates, all students from the Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST), delivered a speech in which he stressed the important role the People's Army plays. The graduation ceremony included demonstrations of skills by graduates. At the end of the celebration JUST president distributed awards to winners in competitions.

WHAT'S GOING ON

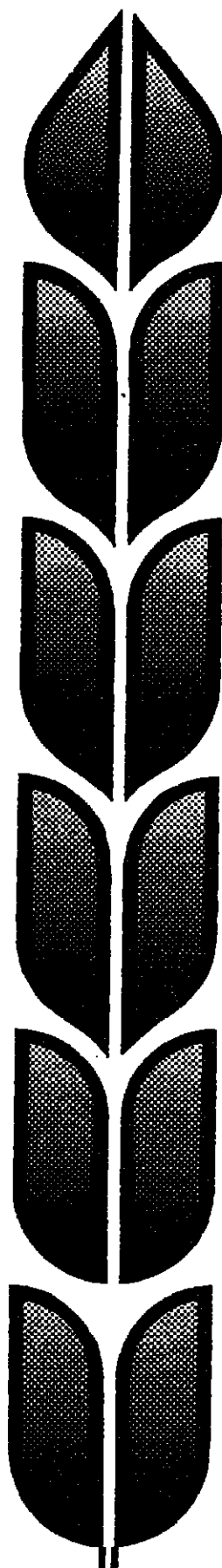
The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Plastic art exhibition by Rudaina and Ruba Haddad at the Housing Bank Complex hall.
- ★ Open studio and workshop for artist Samia Zaru displaying paintings, sculptures and hand-painted fabrics. Location: off 2nd Circle, opposite Rosenthal (9:30-1:30 and 3:30-6:30).
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by Iyad Al Masri at Yarmouk University.
- ★ Exhibition of computers at the Royal Cultural Centre.

Jordan Times
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Paper tiger or creative force?

FOREIGN ministers of the Islamic countries are holding their Cairo conference in the middle of some crises not only with other countries of the world but also among the Islamic countries themselves. Everywhere one looks, one discerns Islamic countries at loggerheads over policy orientations and national objectives. One can comprehend conflicts between the Islamic World and the other nations of the world, but one cannot sympathise with conflicts some of which are bloody between Muslim nations. The Organisation of Islamic Conference has yet to make a difference in the policies and objectives of the various Islamic states. Thus the biggest challenge facing the Cairo conference is to succeed in making an impact on inter-Islamic relations. This is indeed a tall order since Islamic countries have varied, if not conflicting, national interests which are difficult to reconcile. Divisions among them are indeed deep on many important regional and international issues, and what glues them together is, so far, mostly form not substance. And as usual the conferees end up discussing every subject under the sun but make no lasting imprint on their resolution. What is called for therefore is a bona fide effort to unite the Islamic purposes and forge genuinely common aspirations and objectives. The case of Palestine, which is one of many, could be a test case for gauging the sincerity of the Islamic World to come to the rescue of the Palestinian people in the most effective manner. Such a demonstration of solidarity will go a long way to erase the suspicion that the Organisation of Islamic Conference is nothing but a paper tiger incapable of living up to its ideals and principles.



Editorial

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

Jordanian Arabic dailies Tuesday discussed the meeting opening in Jeddah under Saudi Arabian sponsorship to defuse tension between Iraq and Kuwait and end their oil and territorial disputes.

Al Ra'i daily said that the Arab people are looking with hope to this meeting because they are concerned about the situation in the Gulf and expecting favourable results. Only good intentions and goodwill can open the door for reconciliation among brothers and pave the way for a lasting solution, said the paper. Oil, the paper added, is a wealth given as by God to help us build and achieve prosperity for our people and to achieve development, not to be used as a tool with which we carry out self-destruction. It is rather unreasonable to see any Arab country taking unilateral decisions which could be detrimental to the Arab Nation or neighbouring states at a time when the enemies of the Arab Nation are hatching plots against the Arabs, and when the world is witnessing the emergence of economic groupings to safeguard their collective interests, the paper pointed out. For this reason said the paper the Arab people are hopeful that the mediation of their leaders in this dispute will achieve total success.

A columnist in Al Ra'i Arabic daily praises the work of the National Jordanian Society for Combating Environmental Pollution, and says that its efforts are bound to help the Jordanian people to live in a safer atmosphere. But the writer expresses concern over reports quoting specialists that the underground water resources in Jordan are facing increasing danger as a result of the implementation of government and private sector projects. Tareq Masarweh says that schemes like the treatment of waste water set up on plots of land allowing the waste to seep deep down into the aquifers, and the excessive use of pesticides are only examples of such projects that cause harm to the underground water resources. The writer says that concerned government departments should not allow projects such as the manufacture of poisonous chemical substances, and should not allow farmers in the Jordan Valley to use poisonous pesticides unless these operations are conducted under strict government control to prevent pollution that affects the underground water. The writer says Jordan has meagre water resources which must be preserved and protected, and this can be done through the specialised societies and the concerned authorities to safeguard our future.

Al Dustour said that Kuwait and Iraq are bound to reach a peaceful settlement following the intensive Arab mediation efforts. The meeting in Jeddah is by itself a success for such mediation in which King Hussein played a key role over the past few days. Success of the mediation efforts, and the eventual success of the Jeddah meeting means a defeat for the enemies of the Arabs, and the hostile foreign powers which had tried to tamper with the Arab Gulf security, the paper noted. The meeting in Jeddah displays the two sides' determination to end their differences, and is a clear sign that diplomacy can succeed should each side manifest the goodwill to reach a final settlement, said the paper. The Arab people it added look to this meeting in Jeddah as a success for Arab diplomacy and a luminous light on the road towards bolstering Arab solidarity.

Economic Forum

Tale of an economy and a crisis

By Dr. Abdalla Malki

In a nutshell, what the Jordanian economy faced in 1988 was an imbalance in our external sector. This imbalance was redressed by the wrong medication which triggered an unprecedented economic crisis. All that we have been doing ever since, aimed at remedying the catastrophic effects of that fatal mistake.

For a variety of reasons, the pattern of our foreign exchange receipts started to change in the few years preceding 1988. The result was a gradual decline in Jordan's foreign exchange reserves. According to plain economic wisdom, a parallel change should have been introduced into the pattern of our foreign exchange outlays as this was the only, and natural, way to maintain the balance in our external sector. Foreign ex-

change reserves are the accumulated net surpluses of the balance of payments of a nation. They summarise in a very neat and telling form the performance of the external sector of the economy. Because the pattern of our exchange outlays was not changed as to match that of our revenues, our (official) foreign exchange reserves started to be depleted. The imbalance persisted until it wiped out the totality of the official holdings of foreign currencies.

At this point, early 1988 or a little bit earlier, the economic policy should have stepped in to effect the needed change in how we spend our foreign exchange revenues. Foreign currencies accruing to any country are used to (a) import goods and services, (b) make investments abroad, (c) lend fore-

igners (i.e. non-residents in the jargon of an economist), (d) amortise external loans, (e) repatriate foreign investments in the country and (f) to give aid. With the exception of repaying external loans, importation of goods and services is the only relevant usage in the case of Jordan. It is here that the economic policy should have taken action; imports of goods and services must have been curtailed. That would have guaranteed directly, precisely and safely the effecting of the necessary change. Instead, the economic policy chose to devalue the Jordanian dinar as a means of affecting indirectly the pattern of foreign exchange revenues (through higher exports) and outlays (through lower imports). It was implicitly assumed that the desired effects would be achieved

automatically through price mechanism, i.e. the mere decrease in the prices of exportables and increase in those of importables consequent on currency devaluation.

Devaluation backfired. It enticed capital flight: capital already in Jordan made its way, whenever possible, to deposits abroad. Dinars hoarded or circulated in the West Bank and Gaza Strip were converted into dollars. These used to constitute an interest-free permanent loan which consequently fell due (to the tune of several hundred million dollars). Most tragically, remittances of Jordanians working abroad started to dry up. The imbalance in our external sector got worse, the dinar started to slide down fast, confidence in it, and through it, in the economy collapsed. Jordan

found itself very suddenly in the grip of a deep vicious economic crisis, and the IMF was summoned. The basic job of the IMF and the correction programme was to redress that imbalance which was, unnecessarily, made unmanageable by that wrong medication, i.e. devaluation. That is why debt rescheduling has been the main instrument of that programme. But rescheduling merely postpones payments and does not cancel them. If imports of goods and services are not trimmed as to conform to the pattern of the "own" foreign exchange receipts of a country, the current correction programme will be replaced by another, "correction programming" will be perpetuated, and the presence of IMF will become perpetual as well, as is commonly the case.

The governor of the Central Bank of Jordan, Dr. M.S. Nabulsi, has had the independence of thought and insight which enabled him to see these facts and to realise that "confidence" at large, but "confidence" in the national currency in particular was the key word. He started precisely there when he took over in 1989. Without going into details, he managed to have the funds which he said he would use to "stabilise" the dinar. He was met with extreme scepticism. However, he had not to use these funds because he took himself and most others took him seriously enough as to make that use unnecessary. That was the point where the collapse of confidence was halted and the rebuilding of confidence started until we reached where we are right now.

Democracy is slow — paced in Romania

By Edith M. Lederer
The Associated Press

BUCHAREST, Romania — Andrei Plesu, philosopher and art historian, was a dissident outcast under the old regime. Now he is culture minister, with a spacious office and the freedom to talk about democracy and revolution.

Since Communist dictator Nicolae Ceausescu was deposed and executed in December, intellectuals like Plesu have become the conscience of Romania, wooed by political parties and foreign governments.

They are divided on whether to support president Ion Iliescu's government, but united in believing there will be no return to communism in this nation of 23 million, which suffered the most violence in the breakup of the Soviet bloc.

"Tomorrow, if the government says all private institutions will be abolished, there would be a second revolution," Plesu said in an interview. "That's what makes me optimistic about the future despite all the problems, all the difficulties that we are going to face."

Many intellectuals worry about a government that, although freely elected, has resorted to some of its disgraced predecessor's tactics. Although the Communist Party is dead, they say, its structure remains.

In June, Iliescu called loyal miners to Bucharest to stop anti-government demonstrations. They beat protesters, hunted intellectuals and ransacked the offices of critical publications in the worst violence since the revolution.

Nonetheless, Plesu and others are convinced things have changed as the government takes its first steps toward a market economy. They see a difficult road to real democracy, however.

Intellectuals were leaders in the struggle against Ceausescu. It was poet Mircea Dinescu, now chairman of the influential Writers Union, who announced Ceausescu's ouster on the state radio.

Then came the landslide election victory May 20 of Iliescu, a former alternate member of the Communist Party Politburo, and the National Salvation Front, a loose grouping of workers, peasants, intellectuals and technocrats that took power during the revolution.

Many Romanians feel the front is controlled by communists. Intellectuals who feel Iliescu's triumph bodes ill for freedom blame other intellectuals who did not speak out strongly for democracy after the revolution.

It was Romania's first free election in 44 years, and writer Stefan Tanase now wishes the group for social dialogue, an organisation of dissident intellectuals, had gone on television for a few minutes each week to explain the basics of democracy and multiparty politics.

"Who knows?" he said. "It's too late to have regrets." Tanase edits an anti-communist weekly called 22, which the miners tried to shut.

"Who knows?" he said. "It's too late to have regrets." Tanase

edits an anti-communist weekly called 22, which the miners tried to shut.

The political campaign was marred by allegations of fraud and intimidation that forced many of the more than 50 parties to curtail electioneering.

Iliescu's victory was not questioned, but foreign observers said his 85 per cent landslide showed pluralistic democracy had not taken root.

Plesu, Tanase and Dinescu belong to the group for social dialogue, which was formed after the revolution and generally opposes the National Salvation Front.

Two months ago, the Tomorrow Society was established to support the front. Its prominent members include literary critic Eugen Simion and authors Marin Sorescu and Augustin Bazura.

Romulus Vulpesca, a writer and theatre director elected as an independent legislator on the front list, said: "I believe the front is sincere and that it will truly seek to recreate the 1923 constitution, which was one of the most liberal in the world."

Alexandra Cornilescu, head of the English department at Bucharest University, is a staunch front supporter but concedes that violence "harms intellectuals' faith in the government."

Tanase said: "It's a long way to democracy and to a free Romania. It's very difficult, after a half century, to change in so short a time people's mentality. The people voted for continuity. They were under stress, frightened by possible changes."

"Democracy. That means risk, liberty, the possibility to lose or to win. The people don't want to take this chance. ... They're all frightened to lose their jobs."

In Plesu's view, communism has spawned a bureaucracy and mentality "that likes privilege and power, and which has no knowledge of Marxist thinking."

He said the bureaucrats "are opportunists," and change will take years "because there are millions of them."

A press that consists of 1,200 publications, most of them anti-government, doesn't help foster democracy because "they are incredibly primitive, attacking without a point of view," Plesu said. "They transform the liberty to say truth into liberty to say anything."

Thomas Kleiminger, a mathematician who is vice president of the group for social dialogue, said Romania has no history of united opposition.

"We are beginning from zero," he said. "We have no tradition in fighting against communism."

Romania had no counterpart to dissident playwright Vaclav Havel, now president of Czechoslovakia, or magazine Editor Tadeusz Mazowiecki, who became Poland's prime minister. In part, that is because Ceausescu cleverly manipulated the intellectuals, dividing them and silencing critical voices.

Intellectuals always were divided and isolated from much of society, most sided with the monarchy or fascist leaders before World War II, and with communist dictators afterward,

repeating material rewards denied those who resisted.

Plesu and others suffered internal exile and house arrest. The more careful kept their heads down at non-controversial jobs, deploring the situation in private but keeping silent in public.

The revolution transformed the intellectual hierarchy. Overnight, dissidents became heroes and Ceausescu supporters became the outcasts.

Most dissidents initially supported the front. Plesu became culture minister in the interim government and writer Dan Petrescu his deputy, but Dinescu and poet Ana Blandiana refused government posts.

Blandiana and Doina Cornea, a former professor of French who was Romania's best-known dissident, left the front in late January, accusing it of perpetuating totalitarian practices and breaking a promise to stay out of the elections.

Kleiminger, the mathematician, predicted the greatest conflict in the next two years would be between reformers and the bureaucracy.

He said the communist infrastructure will die only if the new government renounces its monopoly on power and promotes a real multiparty system and private enterprise.

"The important thing for us is to bring to the consciousness of men that freedom and initiative under harder conditions are more important than this feeling of security," Kleiminger said.

"Like lions in the zoo, we never knew what it meant to be free."

Algeria gearing up for a confrontation between democrats, fundamentalists

By Philip Shehadi
Reuters

ALGIERS — Algeria's democrats have six months to avert a Muslim fundamentalist victory in early parliamentary elections set for the first quarter of 1991.

President Chadli Benjedid on Sunday ended weeks of speculation by announcing elections a year ahead of schedule. If held tomorrow, they would probably bring a Muslim fundamentalist government to power for the first time in the Arab World.

The move culminates a march toward multi-party democracy launched by Chadli after October 1988 youth riots and accelerated by the sweeping upset victory in local elections last month of the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS).

By calling early elections, Chadli has headed off FIS pressure for prompt dissolution of the national assembly, now entirely composed of delegates from the ruling National Liberation Front (FLN).

But he has also put the squeeze on the FLN and a host of secular, leftist and moderate religious parties that must now quickly organise a credible alternative to the FIS.

"More than ever a union of democrats is essential. An opposition democratic front will guarantee that Algeria will have really free elections for once in its history," revolutionary war hero Hocine Ait Ahmad told Reuters on Sunday.

Ait Ahmad heads the Socialist Forces Front (FFS), probably the strongest secular opposition party, which boycotted the June poll but is almost certain to run next year.

The FFS is at loggerheads with another secular, centre-left party, Rally for Culture and Democracy (RCD), which came in fourth in the June elections after the FIS (54 per cent of the vote), the FLN (28 per cent) and independents (12 per cent).

The RCD and the FFS have organised separate pro-democracy fronts but they appear far from joining forces themselves.

RCD officials Azzaki Ait Arbi blamed the FFS and told Algerian radio on Monday, "We renew our appeal to the FFS. We are ready for a meeting of leaders of the two parties at any time."

FIS president Abbasi Madani hailed the president's decision but said the poll should be moved forward. "We will have lost a complete year. It would be better to have elections in the last quarter of this year," he told the radio.

Still reeling from its electoral defeat after 28 years of one-party rule, the FLN has made little headway toward a promised rejuvenation of the party tainted by charges of corruption and mismanagement.

A Western diplomat said

Chadli may have tried to gain maximum time for the non-fundamentalist parties by declaring elections now — rather than later under growing FIS pressure.

Since the June poll, Chadli has distanced himself from both the government — in which he gave up his post as defence minister in a reshuffle last Wednesday — and the FLN which he presides.

His strategy toward the FIS appears to be one of accommodation rather than confrontation.

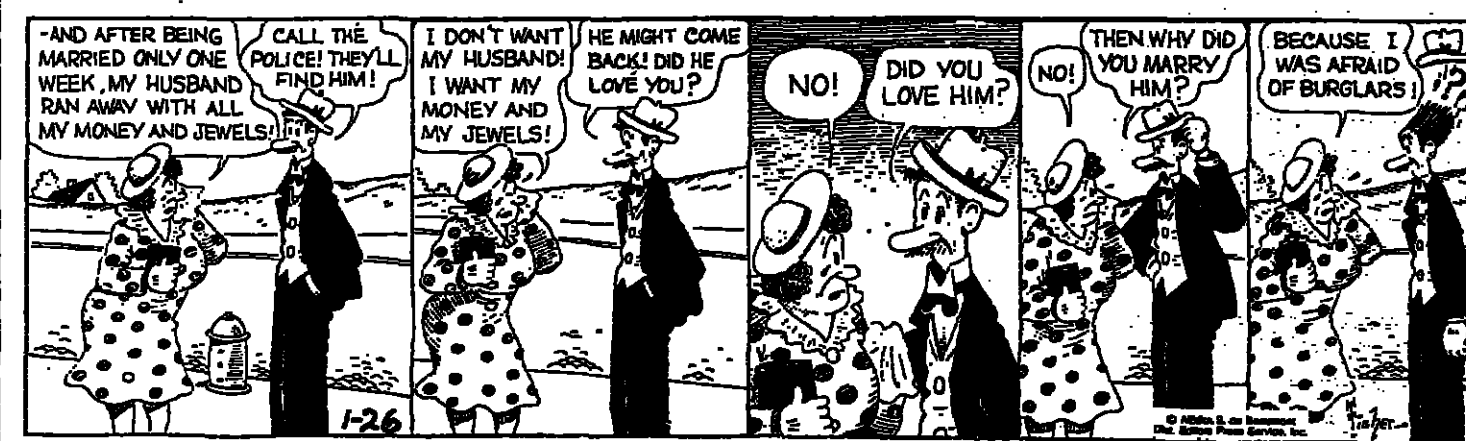
In a sweeping reshuffle of the entire corps of 48 provincial governors announced on Sunday, he dismissed several known for their anti-fundamentalist views including a son-in-law, Tipaza Governor Kaddour Lahouel.

Lahouel hit the headlines earlier this month by annulling a ban on the wearing of shorts by the newly elected fundamentalist mayor of Tipaza town. In 52 per cent of Algerian municipalities, the governors have to co-habit with FIS councils.

But the creation of an independent minister of defence post filled by former Chief of Staff Major General Khaled Nezzar could also be a signal to the fundamentalists to think twice about challenging existing laws.

The army sees itself as keeper of the constitution and has denounced any bid to subvert it even through democratic means.

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Family of the uprising

By G.G. Labelle
The Associated Press

SHABURA REFUGEE CAMP, Occupied Gaza Strip — Subhi Abu Dahi proudly displays his trophies: The scars of four gunshot wounds from encounters with Israeli soldiers in nearly 32 months of the Palestinian uprising.

A 7-year-old sister, Lulu, sits in a wheelchair, eyes dull and head tilted against a brace. She has been paralysed, unable to speak, since a soldier fired a rubber-coated steel ball 18 months ago that struck her in the head.

Their father and an older brother were killed by Israeli forces over the years and a 14-year-old brother shot in both legs.

Subhi is tall and muscular with big, broad hands, and looks like a high school basketball player, but life has left him little time for sports.

In the dusty, garbage-strewn streets of Shabura, young men his age are more likely to throw stones at Israeli soldiers than shoot balls through hoops. The soldiers often respond with bullets, and Subhi has his scars to show.

The toll on his family has been dreadful even by the standards of Shabura, where nearly every home has a tale of suffering from a generation of Israeli occupation.

About 25,000 Palestinian refugees are crowded into the small concrete-block houses. Residents say 37 people in Shabura have died in clashes with the Israeli army since the uprising began in December 1987.

Shabura is part of the town of Rafah, on the Egyptian border. Palestinian flags, outlawed by Israel, fly throughout the camp and slogans written on walls declare hatred and anger for the Israeli presence in the Gaza Strip and West Bank, which Israel captured from Egypt and Jordan in 1967.

"Stopping the intifada is like killing the Palestinian people," reads one slogan, using the Arabic word for the uprising.

An extended Abu Dahi family of 29 people lives in eight small rooms under a corrugated tin roof. Similar spread-out shacks are close by, separated by sandy paths used for dumping garbage and dishwater.

Consistent brothers in the Abu Dahi household told the family's story in the heat of a July afternoon. They cursed the soldiers, accusing them of firing needlessly, and said the family would continue fighting Israeli occupation.

"If things don't change, the uprising will go on, with rocks, firebombs and killing collaborators," Subhi said. "Perhaps there will be weapons. Some people have guns. We have seen collaborators killed with shots."

His mother, Kamiliya, said of the Israelis: "When they leave, the uprising will end. If they stay forever, we fight forever." Kamiliya is 40 and has borne nine children. She said her first husband, Subhi's father, was killed as a guerrilla leader in 1970. Her oldest son, Osama, was shot to death when he attacked an Israeli border guard with a knife in October 1988.

The paralysed child, Lulu, is from her second marriage. In Muslim fashion, Kamiliya married the brother of her slain husband.

Lulu was shot when she ran outside during a riot in February last year, Kamiliya said.

At the time, the army said Lulu was wounded in a stone-throwing riot. Military officials have accused Palestinians of putting youngsters in the front of protests because wounded

children are bad publicity for Israel.

Kamiliya said Lulu "saw a boy she knew being arrested. She grabbed at him, trying to tug him away from the soldiers. One soldier opened fire."

She looked at the girl's frail, twisted body and said: "We sacrificed too much."

Her glance moved to Subhi, the oldest surviving son, scarred by bullets on the face, one arm and both ankles.

"People here call him the suspended 'shahed,' she said. Shahed, Arabic for martyr, describes the Palestinian dead of the uprising.

"That's why I am afraid," she said. "That's why he got married so young. Now he has to support his family. He shouldn't do anything illegal."

Subhi's wife, Hanan, also 19, blushed when Subhi was asked if he was ready to give up revolution for a job and children.

"I am studying the situation," he said. "I will manage to combine work, everything."

Three days earlier, Subhi was freed after 180 days in Gaza central prison, his third jailing of the uprising. He was convicted of "offering services to an illegal organisation," the mainstream Fatah guerrilla faction led by PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat.

According to Subhi, the services were "distributing leaflets, writing graffiti, carrying money."

He has worked as a welder and house painter, but said it would be difficult to find jobs in the economic shambles of Gaza. He is not allowed to work in Israel because of his jail record.

Two men who have jobs in Israel support the Abu Dahi clan. One is a construction worker, the other a pizza cook. The family also gets U.N. food aid and, Subhi said, a PLO "stipend" for the members killed or wounded in the uprising.

Subhi's grandfather, Ahmed, complained that, like many Palestinians, his family had become used to living on handouts since fleeing their village of Qubeiba near Ramle when Israel was founded 42 years ago.

"In Qubeiba, there were rich and poor," he said. "Now we are all beggars."

Ahmed, 65, wears the white knit cap of a religious Muslim and is known as Sheikh Ahmed for his role as a mosque prayer leader.

He said the family fled Qubeiba on May 23, 1948, then joined thousands of other Palestinians in moving from place to place for months to escape the Israeli army. They reached the Gaza Strip in early 1949.

Why did the family leave Qubeiba?

"There were clashes all around and we were afraid after Deir Yassin," he said, referring to a Palestinian village where Jewish irregulars massacred more than 200 men, women and children in April 1948.

Israeli historian Benny Morris wrote that Israeli soldiers captured Qubeiba and drove out the remaining inhabitants on May 27, 1948, four days after the Abu Dahis fled. The army demolished most of the houses and Jewish immigrants took over what remained.

"I think my house was destroyed," said Ahmed Abu Dahi.

From a cupboard, a grandson pulled a deed issued to Ahmed's father in 1930, when Britain ruled Palestine. It described the house as made of stone, built in 1910 and having a common wall with another family's home.

"They live next to us here," too, Ahmed said.

Products of suffering, fighting a faceless enemy

By Miriam Jordan
Reuters

JERUSALEM — Faceless Israeli soldiers tote rifles, Arab women weep over the dead and a Palestinian flag flutters overhead in a drawing by a six-year-old boy.

These are images drawn by children growing up in the intifada, the 31-month-old Palestinian uprising against Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"The children always put confrontation in the forefront. Stores, buildings and schools are mere background," said Cairo Arafat, a psychologist who analyses drawings by children in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Suffering has changed their values. Children's idols are now masked stone-throwers, not movie stars or famous athletes.

Their drawings reflect the world as a place where stern Israeli soldiers fire at stone-throwers.

Arafat, who works at the East Jerusalem Early Childhood Resource Centre, provided children's drawings for an Israeli museum exhibition called "Children's visions of war and peace."

More than 200 drawings and paintings by children from strife-

torn parts of the world — including Israel — were displayed in the children's wing of the museum.

Palestinian children had difficulty imagining a soldier had a family life or a conscience, Arafat said.

"Not knowing the soldiers as people or individuals is what led them to leave them faceless. That's why in drawings the gun is salient, not personal features."

"The children perceive soldiers as killing machines," she said.

"When we asked the kids what the soldiers did when they went home, they said they cleaned their rifles. The kids never associated family with them."

Though their drawings are filled with symbols of violence, Palestinian children — like those in South Africa, Lebanon and Cambodia — have grown resilient to the conflict around them.

Arafat said that in the early days of the intifada, children trembled, cried and ran to an adult when they heard gunshots.

"Now kids will be playing and hear shooting but not respond. One kid might pick up her ears and ask if tear gas will come inside but that's it," she said.

A study of Palestinian children soon to be released also indicated they had high self-esteem and normal aspirations for the future despite living in an atmosphere of

violence.

"Maybe two per cent said they wanted to be in armed struggle. Most wanted to be tradesmen, teachers, nurses and doctors," Arafat said.

But Rama Nashashibi, another psychologist, said Palestinian children would suffer trauma from the revolt in the long term.

"The intifada has caused a state of perpetual unrest where normal socialising and play are impossible," she said.

In the West Bank town of Ramallah, children aged eight to 13 played Israelis and Arabs. The little Palestinian activists threw pebbles at soldiers who chased them with sticks, shouting in Arabic and Hebrew.

Eyad El-Sarraj, a psychiatrist in the Gaza Strip where the uprising erupted in December 1987, said nightmares, bed-wetting and phobia were common in the early days.

A study done shortly after the outbreak showed 28 per cent of Gaza children suffered from a high level of anxiety. Six months later the figure had dropped to 13 per cent, Sarraj said.

At the start, parents tried to keep their children indoors but the momentum of the revolt drew many youngsters into the streets to confront Israeli authority.

"It was then that parents' au-

thority started to erode. The authority of teachers was also affected," Sarraj told Reuters.

During school examinations this month, many students stole tests from teachers and cheated or shouted out answers while taking them. Teachers said efforts to stop them were fruitless.

"Before the intifada parents set the example. The children's idols were movie stars. Now their idols are masked activists," said Sarraj.

"Children who probably would never have gone out the door without permission are now calling their parents cowards."

But their participation in the nationalist struggle has some costs for their lives.

B'tselem, an Israeli group that monitors human rights in the occupied territories, said Israeli security forces had killed 157 children in the uprising. Some inadvertently walked into a riot.

Palestinian children who previously had little of any contact with Israelis now regard soldiers and Israelis as one and the same thing.

When a Palestinian journalist took his four-year-old boy to predominantly Jewish West Jerusalem for the first time, he asked: "If they're Israelis, why aren't they carrying guns?"



The revolution of Palestinian children will change their future in more ways than one.

Are the needs of Arab students of English being addressed?

By J.W. Wright
Special to the Jordan Times

Amman — The year 1990 marks the fifteenth anniversary of the Association of Arab Universities (AAU) adoption of a Pan-Arab English as a Second Language (ESL) curricula used by many of the regional universities. Since the development of this plan, the use of English has increased dramatically throughout the Arab world, as has the number of schools and language centres offering English language training. Experts estimate that the number of ESL schools has grown by nearly 1100 per cent over the last decade. The question today, however, is whether or not the AAU's plan has effectively helped students in the marketplace.

Many educational planners believe that it has not, and have become increasingly critical of the curricula used by Middle Eastern universities. The driving force behind the 1976 AAU conference was the fact that many Arab governments had included ESL training in their long range develop-

ment plans. English was seen as a necessary tool for economic advancement. The AAU was charged with the developing a curricula consistent with these long-range plans. This came to fruition at the 1976 conference, where an ambitious plan including a minimum of four years of English course work was adopted.

What has bothered many people about the plan is its slant toward the academic. The AAU plan is geared to prepare students wishing to pursue graduate degrees in English and American literature. In doing so, students in business, scientific and professional programmes often do not get the types of English they need to conduct business in their fields. This has been a major complaint of international companies with offices in the Middle East. As early as 1978

many professors, including University of Jordan Linguist Dr. Sajavaara, warned that "most foreign language learners find that their skill is negligible and utterly insignificant when they are forced to communicate in the foreign language."

Research seems to have proved these criticisms correct. Several studies have identified wide differences between the ability of students with advanced English training at Arab universities to pass the standardised tests suggested by the AAU, and their ability to speak the language on a professional basis. Kuwait University students, for example, passed standardised ESL tests, but scored poorly on tests given by the university's department of commerce. Similar results were found in two different tests written by Jordanian

students. Saudi military students consistently passed English tests based on literary vocabulary, but consistently failed tests of military language skills given by the U.S. Department of Defense Language Institute.

If educational planners have forgotten the vocational value of English training, college students have not. Other studies conducted since the 1976 AAU ESL plan was adopted, (which is still used at the majority of Arab universities) have pinpointed job placement as the biggest concern of college students taking English classes. Most students see business and professional English training as a means of obtaining more lucrative and high status jobs with international companies.

Another University of Jordan study found that 70 per cent of students pursuing

graduate degrees felt that a knowledge of scientific English was necessary to secure research and academic positions. University of Jordan seniors also indicated by a 60 per cent margin that proficiency in business English was more instrumental in finding jobs than was a knowledge of technical Arabic. An earlier study of 4804 Jordanian students also concluded that English training was seen as a vehicle for job mobility.

Arab students outside the Kingdom support these comments from Jordanian students. Saudi students felt that English was vital in securing jobs with the government or in international business. Arab students at Bethlehem University stated that the most valuable part of ESL training is its employability. University of Kuwait statistics agree.

These opinions generally reflect current trends in the Arab business arena. A 1982 study found that 79 per cent of all international companies who conduct business in Arab countries conduct negotiations in English. An economic education institute study notes that American companies conduct more business with Arab organisations that is done between the U.S. and Africa, Canada, the Soviet Union, or with the countries in Eastern Europe. As such, the lack of bi-lingual employees has provided great opportunities for students well trained in business and professional English.

The authors of these studies also remind us that 90 per cent of Arab university students go directly into the work force after graduation, and only 10 per cent go on to graduate school programmes in the United States or Europe. Most agree that at least a partial reconstruction of the ESL curricula used in Arab schools should be made. These new plans must keep in mind the economic as well as the academic goals of English training.

Mubarak opens OIC talks

(Continued from page 1)

Mubarak did not identify the assaults on Islam, but he was apparently referring to the several rifts within the Muslim community as well as the political challenge posed by militant Muslims to several member-states.

Egypt is playing host to an OIC gathering at ministerial level for the first time since its readmission to the Arab mainstream. It had long been ostracised for its 1979 treaty with Israel.

The OIC meeting is expected to focus on traditional preoccupations of the Muslim world, from Soviet Jewish emigration to Israel to the Indo-Pakistan dispute over Kashmir.

One-topic calls for joint action to combat blasphemy — a reference to British author Salman Rushdie's novel "The Satanic Verses," a book that is considered by many Muslims to repro-

sent an attack on the Prophet Muhammad.

A delegation of British Muslims led by Yusuf Islam, a singer formerly known as Cat Stevens, has arrived in Cairo to lobby for OIC support against what they said was Britain's religious and racial bigotry against the country's Muslim community.

Syria has submitted draft resolutions, one of which calls for formation of an Islamic front to confront Israel.

Delegates said Farouk Kaddoumi, head of the Palestine Liberation Organisation's Political Department, was likely to reiterate calls for an international peace conference to settle the future of the Israeli-occupied territories.

They told Reuters they also expected Arab delegates to hold behind-the-scenes talks on ways of ending the civil war in Lebanon.

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U.S. fading fast at Goodwill Games

SEATTLE, Washington (Agencies) — The United States' slide at the Goodwill Games is picking up speed.

A day after losing the basketball gold medal to Yugoslavia, the United States was pummeled by the Soviets in hockey and mugged by the Cubans in baseball.

Only boxer Sergio Reyes' upset of Cuban World Champion Enrique Carrion and two gold medals by synchronized swimmers kept things from getting totally ugly for the Americans.

The 119-pound (54-kilogramme) Reyes carried the fight to Carrion from the opening punch and scored a 3-2 decision, handing Carrion his first defeat in more than a year.

The synchro swimming gold medals were the only ones awarded Monday, and they went to the United States' Kristin Babb in solo, the Josephson twins in duet.

But that failed to cushion the blows administered by Cuba's bats and the Soviets' sticks.

Cuba, which settled for a 16-2 win, also took a shot at the spirit

of the games, executing a sacrifice bunt with a 10-0 lead.

The U.S. hockey team fell 10-1 to the Soviets' who like the Cubans in baseball are the world champions.

Baseball

Cuba, led by third baseman Omar Linares, pounded American pitching for 19 hits in a game shortened to 6½ innings by the international 10-run lead rule.

Linares, rated the best amateur player in the world, had four doubles and a single, knocked in three runs and scored twice.

Lourdes Gourriel also had three hits and three runs in just four innings for the Cubans and Hector Mesa drove in four runs. The Cubans settled it early with seven runs in the second inning, three in the third and four in the fourth.

Cuba manager Servio Borges denied his team tried to run up the score.

"All we were trying to do was play the least amount of innings as possible so we could be in the gold-medal game tomorrow with

fresh pitching," he said through an interpreter. "We wanted to score as many runs as possible to shorten the game, and I think the United States probably would have done the same thing."

Hockey

There was no mercy ending for the U.S. hockey team. The Americans fell behind 4-0 in the first period and it only got worse.

"I think we played well enough tonight to beat West Germany," said U.S. coach Jeff Sauer of the Americans' next opponent. "But we were not playing West Germany."

The U.S. team beat the Soviets 3-1 in Oakland earlier this month, but the rematch was no contest as Pavel Bure and Evgeny Davydov each scored twice for the Soviets.

"They were pretty much in control," said Joe Sacco, who got the only U.S. goal, in the third period. "It's tough coming from behind 4-0 to the best team in the world."

U.S. bantamweight Tony Gonzalez beat young Shim-Soo of South Korea on a unanimous

decision.

In other bouts, in the heavyweight class, world Champion Felix Savon of Cuba had no problem with Javier Alvarez of the United States, while Bert Teuchert of West Germany swept John Bray of the United States 5-0. In the welterweight division, Romanian Francisc Vastage edged Emmett Linton of the United States on a 3-2 decision.

The volleyball competition began with the top teams, Cuba, Italy and the Soviet Union, all showing their class.

Cuba survived the toughest test of the day by beating the Netherlands 3-1 while Italy won a competitive three-game match against Argentina. The Soviet Union surrendered just 15 points in sweeping Brazil.

The baseball final will be between Cuba and Japan who outclassed Canada 15-8.

There was a scare for the Japanese when Koichi Sekikawa was hit in the head with a pitch from Canadian hurler Chris Smeeton. The left-handed hitting catcher lay on the ground for

some 20 minutes before being taken to hospital. After an examination, he was released.

Modern pentathlon

In men's shooting competition, Anatoli Starostin of the Soviet Union placed first, hitting 195 out of 200 targets for 1,195 points. He was followed by Vahktang Yagoravili, Soviet Union, with 193 targets and 1,165 points, and Laszlo Beres, United States, 190 and 1,120. Rob Stull of the United States placed ninth with 187 and 1,075, while American Douglas Stull placed 15th with 182 and 1,000.

Kim Rainer of West Germany won the women's shooting with a target score of 192 for 1,150 points. Tati Chernetskaya of the Soviet Union was second with 189, or 1,105 points. Terry Lewis of the United States and Caroline Delemere of France tied for third at 188, or 1,090 points. American Lori Norwood, the 1989 world champion, was tied for sixth with Yan Lin of China at 186, or 1,060 points. Kimberley Arata of Vandenberg, California, was ninth at 183 and 1,015.

Medal Table

(144 medal events)				
	G	S	B	Tot
Soviet Union	52	52	38	142
United States	51	43	32	126
East Germany	10	7	22	39
Bulgaria	8	6	7	21
China	2	5	3	10
West Germany	3	2	4	9
Cuba	3	2	2	7
Canada	2	1	4	7
Romania	1	4	2	7
Australia	0	4	3	7
Netherlands	1	1	4	6
Spain	2	2	1	5
Hungary	1	1	3	5
Japan	0	1	4	5
Italy	1	2	1	4
Jamaica	1	1	2	4
Poland	3	0	0	3
Yugoslavia	2	1	0	3
South Korea	1	1	1	3
Turkey	0	2	1	3
Brazil	0	1	2	3
Denmark	1	0	1	2
Ethiopia	0	2	0	2
Kenya	0	1	1	2
Czechoslovakia	1	0	1	2
Mexico	1	0	0	1
Mongolia	1	0	0	1
Morocco	1	0	0	1
Sri Lanka	1	0	0	1
Belarus	0	1	0	1
New Zealand	0	1	0	1
Britain	0	0	1	1
Ireland	0	0	1	1

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY AUGUST 1, 1990

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: This is one of those days when you are apt to speed far too much on having a good time and when you're likely to feel that others are trying to take from you what is rightfully yours.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Your special gifts can come to the foreground after some tense situation about which you would be wise not to get involved and remain in a constructive mood.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) An argument at home over an unresolved problem could keep you from utilizing the full advantage other change to enhance benefits at your residence.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Be careful not to get into a battle over a communication or comment early for then you will be able to put your point across very well with neighbors and friends.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Sidelstep a dispute over some contract or account and later you will be able to see how to make the most of an opportunity to increase your assets.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) You feel you have to start straightening out an annoying situation but you only get in deeper so decide your goals early and in evening go get them.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Whatever you have in mind to confront another person you are

peevish with should be dismissed and concentration take place upon future expansion of interests.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Consider well the most magnanimous friends and supports you have and let them be aware of what they can do to back your current longings.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Control that temptation to try to force other to do things your way in the morning and you find in the evening you can extend influence over wide worldly plateau.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Don't let yourself get involved in some strife in the morning and you find in the evening you have all kinds of new aspirations by which to make progress.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) A day to sidestep anything but pressing obligations that can make you a much more prosperous personality so get into those worthwhile subjects.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Don't get bogged down in a personal battle early but watch what comes to light in the outside world and you find a big opportunity awaiting you.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Avoid getting feelings hurt by outside in the morning and spend time taking a good look at your surroundings and improving them to your liking.

Activist could help S. Africa get into Olympics

LONDON (AP) — One of apartheid's fiercest opponents could help South Africa be readmitted to the Olympics and other international events.

Sam Ramsamy, who fled his homeland 18 years ago when police started investigating his anti-apartheid activities, said even he was surprised to be going back to a country he has vilified for so long over its racial policies.

The nine-day trip starting Friday will set the stage for an initial meeting between sports leaders from Johannesburg and the rest of Africa this autumn.

The executive chairman of the South African Non-Racial Olympic Committee, Ramsamy stressed that black African sports leaders were far from ready to drop the 30-year-old international ban on South Africa and its athletes.

But he added that recent political developments made this a prudent time to make the trip at the request of the Association of National Olympic Committees of Africa (ANOCA).

"There is a great deal of scepticism. To be honest, I am surprised myself," Ramsamy said. "But this is a mandate from ANOCA, and there is the fluidity or the current changes in the politics of the country, where Mandela has been released and the (African National Congress) unbanned."

"That indicated that it might be a time to go in and take a beating of the pulse, as it were. But that does not indicate in any way it is a time to lift the boycott."

Ramsamy, a member of the International Olympic Committee's Commission of Apartheid, is scheduled to meet with officials from sports groups during his visit, which ends Aug. 12.

As he has campaigned to keep South Africa isolated in sports, Ramsamy has earned the wrath of many athletes.

Chang is coming back at 18

TORONTO (AP) — It's hard to imagine an 18-year-old professional athlete being on the comeback trail. That may best describe Michael Chang.

After starting the tennis world by winning the 1989 French Open, Chang buckled under the pressure of expectation last summer in the United States, then suffered a stress fracture of the left hip during practice in December.

"The hip injury really hurt me, but in a way it was good, too, because '89 was a tough year and it gave me a chance to rest," Chang said after winning the \$1.5 million Players' International Tournament.

In the error-marred, longest-ever final in the 101-year-old history of the tournament, Chang recovered from losing the first set for the third straight match at the National Tennis Centre to defeat fellow American Jay Berger 4-6, 6-3, 7-6 (7-3).

Entering the tournament, Chang was ranked 24th, compared to a high of No. 5 on the computer last year. In Europe, where he was eliminated in the first round at three consecutive clay-court tournaments while preparing for this year's French Open, there was open speculation that his career was finished.

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Michael Chang

Until the end, the match offered little of the electricity generated by the Andre Agassi-Chang quarterfinal, or the Pete Sampras-Chang semifinal.

Instead, it proved more of an endurance contest as the players battled not only each other, but energy-sapping heat.

"It made it hard against Jay Berger because he doesn't give up anything," said an exhausted Chang, his face flushed an hour after the match from the heat.

"He's known to fight, fight, fight until it's over." Because he played more aggressively than usual, fatigue contributed to Berger's whopping count of 49 unforced errors to

Chang's 26, five in the third-set tiebreaker. Berger also double-faulted, giving Chang a 3-1 lead, and failed to land his first serve on four service opportunities until zinging an ace by Chang.

"You play every player different," said Berger, explaining his frequent attacks on the net.

"Against Boris Becker, you concentrate on returning his serve. Against Michael, you've always got to remember that he might have to hit an extra ball because he'll run down your shots."

As he had in previous matches, Chang, 18, ignored the threat of the leg cramps he suffered against Agassi by retrieving almost every shot.

Chile to host 1991 America's Cup

ASUNCION, Paraguay (AP) — Chile will host next year's America's Cup, the South American Soccer Federation has ruled.

Dates, sites, match-ups and other information about the tournament to take place during June and July will be disclosed at a later date, Federation President Nicolas Leoz said.

The America's Cup, held every two years, pits national teams from 10 South American nations against each other. Last year, Brazil hosted and won the tournament, edging Uruguay in the finals.

Abel Alonso, president of Chile's Football Federation, said, "it is a great satisfaction for the

Chilean sporting public to organize this event and demonstrate to the world we are capable of managing a competition of this high level."

The chairman of the federation's Foreign Relations Committee, Alfredo Asfura, said tentative plans call for terms to be divided into two groups, one based at Valparaiso and Vina Del Mar, and the other in the capital Santiago.

"In Valparaiso, Playa Ancha Stadium, with a capacity of 18,000 fans, will be renovated, as will Sausalito in Vina Del Mar, which can seat 30,000 people," Asfura said.

The games could go a long way, Asfura said, to repairing the Chile's reputation, which was damaged last year when goalie Roberto Rojas lied that he had been struck by a flare fired by someone in the stands during a match against Brazil.

After an investigation, the International Soccer Federation barred Rojas from international play for life, and suspended Chile until the 1994 World Cup.

"We want to recover the good image of Chilean soccer," Asfura said. "What happened last year in Maracana Stadium in Rio de Janeiro was an accident which should be forgotten."

Rio state soccer final ends in chaos

RIO DE JANEIRO (R) — The final of the Rio State Soccer Championship between Botafogo and Vasco ended in chaos with both teams claiming to have won the competition — and performing laps of honour around the stadium.

Botafogo, who led 1-0 at the end of 90 minutes, refused to accept an earlier ruling by the Rio Football Federation that in the case of a Botafogo victory the score would revert to 0-0 and the final would go to extra time.

When the referee blew the whistle for full time Botafogo's players left the pitch, grabbed the trophy, completed a victory lap and went back to the dressing room.

Vasco's players and referee Claudio Garcia, meanwhile, waited in the centre circle for extra time to begin.

After 30 minutes of waiting, it was announced the match had been abandoned and Vasco completed their own lap of honour with a trophy supplied by a television station.

Earlier this month the Rio Federation changed the rules under which the final would be played to placate Botafogo's eventual opponents.

The original rules said Botafogo

go would meet the winners of a semifinal playoff between Vasco and Fluminense on equal terms.

But the two teams, who had demanded a triangular competition, said Botafogo had had too easy a passage into the final, qualifying on points rather than victories.

The Federation ruled that if Botafogo beat Vasco, the score would revert to 0-0 at the end of 90 minutes and Botafogo would have to win again in extra time to claim the title. If Vasco won or drew in the 90 minutes, they would be champions.

Botafogo have appealed against the decision to a sporting tribunal and a ruling is expected later this week.

Eduardo Vianna, president of the federation, announced after the match that Botafogo would be suspended.

But Mario Zagalo, a coach of Brazil's 1970 World Cup winning side, blamed the Rio Federation: "This is the end," he said. "Can you imagine this sort of confusion in international soccer?"

The match itself, for which the 160,000-capacity Maracana Stadium was less than a quarter full, offered little excitement. The decisive goal was scored by Carlos Alberto Dias in the 79th minute.

Test run of Asian Games in Peking called a success

PEKING (R) — Chinese commentators Tuesday proclaimed this week's test run for the Asian Games a success, despite some hitches, and announced further moves to give Peking a ringed look for September's extravaganza.

More than 1,000 athletes, 400 officials and 200 Chinese journalists completed Monday a two-day test of sports and press facilities

and the Asian Games village.

"This trial run was very successful. Of course there were some problems so we cannot relax our vigilance," said State Councillor Li Tieying, quoted by the official Peking Daily.

Traffic jams must be resolved and people attending must "standardise" their behaviour, the newspaper said.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANNAN HIRSCH
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ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ KJ8 ♠ 10863 ♠ A5 ♠ Q1074
Partner opens the bidding with one heart. What do you respond?
A.—This is the sort of hand that made players adopt limit jump raises. If you play forcing jump raises you have to make the temporary response of two clubs, intending to raise hearts at your next turn. Unfortunately, partner won't know whether you have three- or four-card trump support, which could be crucial to his decision to bid game or not.

Q.2—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠ AKQ64 ♠ A10832 ♠ Void ♠ AK9
What is your opening bid?
A.—Even though you have exceptional offensive potential and only a three-loser hand, two-suiteders are not easy to bid if you start with a demand bid, especially if you play weak two-bids with two clubs as the only force. We suggest a one-spade opening followed by a jump shift in hearts.

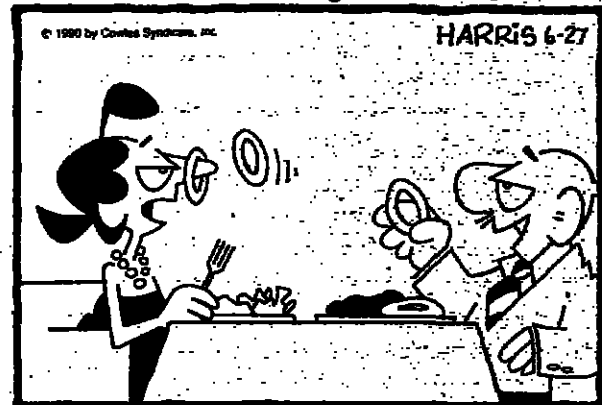
Q.3—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠ AQ106 ♠ KJ62 ♠ J7 ♠ J83
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Db1 ?
What action do you take?
A.—Had there been no intervening action, you would have to decide whether your hand was good enough for a forcing jump raise. After a takeout double, however, a jump raise becomes preemptive. The way to show this hand is first to redouble, then raise hearts.

Q.4—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠ K104 ♠ A93 ♠ QJ92 ♠ AK10
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 3 NT Pass
4 ♠ Pass ?
What do you bid now?
A.—Even if you play Gerber, North's bid of four clubs is not asking—it is a natural slam try in clubs. Since you have an excellent hand in support of clubs, cue-bid your cheapest ace. Bid four hearts.

Q.5—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠ 1098 ♠ KQ4 ♠ K7 ♠ AJ954
The bidding has proceeded:
West North East South
Pass Pass 3 ♠ ?
What action do you take?
A.—For the moment, East's preempt has accomplished its purpose. You can't be sure whose hand it is, and should you elect to take any action and find partner with an unsuitable hand, it could be a bloodbath. Pass, and let the auction take its course.

Q.6—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠ 1098 ♠ KQ4 ♠ K7 ♠ AJ954
The bidding has proceeded:
West North East South
Pass Pass 3 ♠ ?
Pass Db1 Pass ?
What action do you take?
A.—There's a temptation to try three no trump, but that could be a risky venture since partner did not have enough to open the bidding. We would take our sure profit by converting partner's takeout double to penalties by passing.

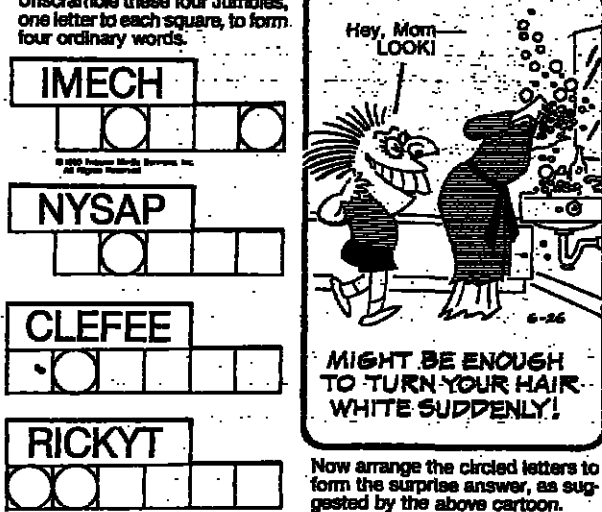
THE BETTER HALF. By Harris



"If you don't like the onion rings, just leave them on your plate!"

JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: ○○○○○○

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: TIGER FACET BANDIT SCORCH
Answer: If you want to relax at dinner, take this before each meal—A CHAIR

THE Daily Crossword by Kenneth Witte

ACROSS	1 Billards	8 Tonic fruits	15 Phonograph	22 Moonshine	29 Joyce	36 Carol	43 Unruffled	50 Frigthen	57 Unexpected	64 Logan	71 Wimp's opposite	DOWN	1 Domino	2 It. wine center	3 Unusual. abbr.	4 Searches for	5 Averages	6 Baking place	7 Tonic fruits	8 Phonograph	9 Sausage var.	10 Sheltered	11 Shaded walk	12 Colony	13 Crestures	14 Courtyard	15 Moonshine	16 Mountain lake	17 Unruffled	18 Isolated	19 Moslem	20 Love god	21 Protozoan	22 Paragon	23 Casale's instrument	24 Earl of	25 Putting on tape	26 Field of snow	27 Prohibition	28 Brands	29 Joyce	30 Carol	31 Unruffled	32 Isolated	33 Moslem	34 Love god	35 Protozoan	36 Paragon	37 Casale's instrument	38 Earl of	39 Putting on tape	40 Field of snow	41 Prohibition	42 Brands	43 Unruffled	44 Isolated	45 Moslem	46 Love god	47 Protozoan	48 Paragon	49 Casale's instrument	50 Earl of	51 Putting on tape	52 Field of snow	53 Prohibition	54 Brands	55 Tonic fruits	56 Phonograph	57 Sausage var.	58 Sheltered	59 Shaded walk	60 Colony	61 Crestures	62 Courtyard	63 Moonshine	64 Mountain lake	65 Unruffled	66 Isolated	67 Moslem	68 Love god	69 Protozoan	70 Paragon	71 Casale's instrument	72 Earl of	73 Putting on tape	74 Field of snow	75 Prohibition	76 Brands
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U.S. BASEBALL STANDINGS

American League East Division

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Toronto	55	47	.539	—
Boston	54	48	.529	1
Baltimore	50	52	.490	5
Detroit	49	55	.471	7
Cleveland	47	55	.461	8
Milwaukee	45	54	.455	8½
New York	39	61	.390	15

ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

Moroccan oil storage project starts

RABAT (R) — Bechtel Enterprises, Inc. of the U.S. and the Olayan Development Corporation of Saudi Arabia have signed an accord in Casablanca to build a storage facility for 800 million barrels of crude oil, the official news agency MAP has said. They signed the accord with the Moroccan petroleum products distribution company Société Nationale de Produits Pétroliers (SNPP) to build the facility underground in a disused salt mine at Mohammadia, 25 kilometres east of Casablanca. Mohammadia is Morocco's main petroleum port and the site of the country's largest oil refinery. MAP said the storage facility, to be built in stages, would be available to both oil producers and consumers.

China raises domestic postal rates

BEIJING (AP) — China's domestic postal rates were raised 150 per cent for the first increase in 40 years, effective Tuesday, the official media has reported. The announcement, carried in most of the official press, said domestic postal rates had been raised 150 per cent, from .04 yuan (0.85 U.S. cents) to .10 yuan (2 cents) for a local delivery and from .08 yuan (1.7 cents) to .20 yuan (4 cents) for inter-city letters. It said parcel post charges also were raised 150 per cent. Overseas rates, which are much higher, were not mentioned in the announcement. China's postal services have been running deficits since the 1970s because rates have failed to keep up with costs, the English-language China Daily said.

Quality of Iranian carpets slumps

NICOSIA (R) — Iranian carpet exports are being badly hit by a combination of smuggling, dull design and shoddy workmanship, the Iranian news agency IRNA has reported. It said the exports played a key role in plans to make the economy less dependent on oil and six million people worked in the industry. But it quoted Mohammad Reza Abed, managing director of Iran Carpet Company, as complaining of a lack of raw materials, the use of derivative designs, a shortage of skilled manpower and no quality control. Mohammad Ali Tayrani, deputy commerce minister for parliamentary affairs, urged training courses for weavers and the removal of economic obstacles facing manufacturers, IRNA said. "If we are supposed to earn \$18 million from carpet exports in the ongoing five-year development plan, we should get back our place on international markets as soon as possible," Tayrani said. Karim Ansari, a member of the Union of Carpet Exporters, said the industry could be revived by letting every foreign-bound traveller take a hand-woven carpet out with him. IRNA quoted a customs officer as saying some 70 per cent of exportable carpets were smuggled out by sea last year, greatly damaging the export drive.

E. German unemployment tops 250,000

EAST BERLIN (R) — The number of unemployed East Germans jumped to quarter of a million in July, an increase of more than 100,000 from June, and was due to go higher, Labour Minister Regine Hildebrandt has said. The surge in unemployment was strongest in the first half of the month, following the merger of the two German economies July 1, and Hildebrandt told SFB radio: "In theory the figure could be much higher." She forecast industry would lose one million jobs and some sectors such as chemicals would be virtually annihilated because they caused too much damage to the environment. Another 250,000 jobs would go in agriculture, she said. The government has kept the number of jobless down by putting hundreds of thousands on short-term jobs — paying them out of state coffers for doing little or nothing, Hildebrandt said. 500,000 people applied for short-term work in the two weeks after the two economies were merged on free market lines. Unemployment, virtually unknown in East Germany until the fall of the country's Stalinist leaders last year, has skyrocketed because the economy cannot compete with Western companies entering the market after decades of expulsion. Some politicians and bankers expect unemployment to reach three million, a third of the workforce, in the next two years.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Tuesday, July 31, 1990
Central Bank official rates

	Buy	Sell	French franc	122.6	123.3
U.S. dollar	639.0	643.0	Japanese yen (for 100)	447.6	450.3
Pound Sterling	1218.9	1226.2	Dutch guilder	364.3	366.5
Deutschemark	410.6	413.1	Swedish crown	112.5	113.2
Swiss franc	484.9	487.8	Italian lira (for 100)	56.1	56.4
			Belgian franc (for 10)	199.6	200.8

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.

One Sterling	1.8495/8505	U.S. dollar	1.1545/55
One U.S. dollar	1.6010/15	Canadian dollar	1.8040/50
	1.3580/90	Deutschemark	32.92/97
	5.3610/60	Dutch guilder	1172/1173
	146.97/147.02	Swiss franc	146.97/147.02
	5.8460/6510	Belgian franc	146.97/147.02
	6.1830/80	French franc	146.97/147.02
	6.1235/85	Italian lire	146.97/147.02
One ounce of gold	370.80/371.30	Japanese yen	146.97/147.02
		Swedish crowns	146.97/147.02
		Norwegian crowns	146.97/147.02
		Danish crowns	146.97/147.02
		U.S. dollars	146.97/147.02

Soviet foreign debt reaches 36b roubles

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet foreign debt is 36 billion roubles (\$61 billion) in hard currency equivalent, Deputy Prime Minister Stepan Sitaryan has said in a newspaper interview.

This compares with a figure of 34 billion roubles (\$58 billion) given by Prime Minister Nikolai Ryzhkov to parliament in June last year.

Sitaryan, head of the Foreign Economic Commission, told the weekly Argumenty i Fakty that Kuwait had granted Moscow a 300 million rouble (\$510 million) long-term credit, but gave no details.

He was asked whether foreign firms and businessmen were losing faith in the Soviet Union.

"Our indebtedness is 36 billion hard currency roubles," he replied. "For such a big country that is not so much."

"Some foreign banks have started to lose faith in us and recalled their credits, although our banks are now repaying all credits. There has not been a single case of non-payment. There have only been non-payments for goods," he noted.

The Soviet Union had a hard currency balance of payments deficit of more than 6.4 billion roubles (\$11.01 billion) in the first half of 1990, up 150 per cent on the same period of 1989.

Sitaryan said bigger foreign purchases were planned for this year and added: "We are counting on the fact that, having a reasonable rating, we shall be able all the same to get good credits in the West."

He said Italy, France and West Germany were apparently prepared to lend to the Soviet Union and he also had hopes of assistance from Japan.

Vienna bourse outshines other world markets

VIENNA (R) — Vienna's stock exchange, benefiting from its place on the doorstep of Eastern Europe, was the fastest-rising bourse in the world during the first half of the year, according to an exchange statement.

The Vienna bourse index rose 142.74 points to 654.25 by June 30, an increase of 28 per cent compared with a 6.4 per cent rise on Wall Street in the same period.

The index, which peaked at an all-time high of 739.21 points in mid-March, closed last month near that level at 729.05.

"The basic driving force behind this upswing was 'East Bloc fantasy' and the related great interest by foreign investors and investment funds in Austrian shares," the statement added.

The bourse has 102 domestic

shares listed and 48 foreign stocks. It is capitalised at 351 billion Austrian schillings (\$30.65 billion).

In the first four months of 1990 foreign investors bought Austrian shares worth 9.0 billion schillings (\$786 million) against 2.5 billion schillings (\$218.3 million) in the same period last year.

Total turnover reached 155.9 billion schillings (\$13.62 billion) — four times higher than the 42.9 billion schillings (\$3.75 billion) a year ago.

Fastest risers were banks, energy shares and stocks related to the textile and metal industries.

In June the market began trade in its first listed Eastern European shares — Hungarian bonds travel concern, also listed in Budapest.

Algeria increases fuel prices to cut budget gap

ALGIERS (R) — Algeria's parliament has approved fuel price hikes as part of a tax package designed to cut the budget deficit.

Algerian radio said Tuesday that the national assembly adopted a supplementary budget for 1990 after hours of stormy debate late Monday. But the deputies lowered most of the proposed new taxes and rejected a housing tax sought by the government.

The Algerian news agency APS said petrol prices would rise 10 centimes a litre (four cents a gallon) for both normal and super and five centimes a litre (two cents a gallon) for diesel.

The government had sought hikes of 35, 20 and 100 centimes for normal, super and diesel, respectively.

Soviets halt oil search in Yemen

SANAA (R) — Yemen's oil minister has said that Soviet oil exploration in part of the country had halted and that Western companies could fill the gap.

Saleh Abu Bakr Ibn Hussainoun, oil and minerals minister since north and south Yemen united in May, said a visit by Soviet Oil and Gas Industries Minister Leonid Filimonov last month failed to produce an accord.

"We had agreed to sign a protocol to settle the problems facing development (of the Shabwah oilfields) by Sept. 30... but the Soviet side apologised at the last minute," Al Thawra newspaper quoted Hussainoun as saying.

Shabwah is in what used to be Marxist-ruled South Yemen, where Soviet oil companies have long been active and Western ones virtually excluded.

Yemen's new government said in May it wanted Western companies to start exploring in the south, where most of the country's oil is thought to be.

Hussainoun said he could not agree to Soviet terms for completing work in Shabwah.

"That's why we would have to give licences to other foreign (including Western) companies to explore the area as long as there is no positive response from the Soviet side," he said.

An oil pipeline to carry 120,000 barrels per day (b/d) from Shabwah to Bir Ali export terminal had not been completed because its Soviet builders had run out of money, Hussainoun added.

British Petroleum began exploring in central South Yemen shortly before unification and in June Crescent Petroleum, based in the United Arab Emirates, agreed to do so.

Hussainoun, formerly South Yemen's oil minister, said he hoped the U.S. company Chevron and other Western companies would also start exploration soon.

The Soviet Union and several Western companies are part of a consortium set up before unification to explore the North and South Yemen, west of Shabwah.

Report encourages Japanese to share more technology

TOKYO (AP) — After years of guiding Japan's technological rise, the trade ministry said Tuesday the time has come for the nation to begin sharing its technical prowess with the rest of the world.

An advisory report released by the Ministry of International Trade and Industry said Japan should sell more technology overseas and should put out the welcome mat for increased numbers of foreign researchers at government and private institutes.

It said Japanese companies' voracious appetite for new technology causes the country to import more foreign technology in the form of patent royalties and proprietary rights than it exports, despite its growing technological prowess.

"We would like the private sector to become more enlightened and increase its technology transfers overseas," said Hideo-toshi Nishimura, director of the ministry's machinery and information industries bureau.

He said the ministry would try to encourage transfers of technology by creating "favourable conditions" including tax credits in a programme being formulated.

Private companies currently foot the bill for about 30 per cent of Japan's research and development, compared to less than 50 per cent in the United States, and carefully guard their technology from rival firms. This has led to questions about whether they would be willing to share their most advanced technology overseas.

Last year, Japanese companies were the top four recipients of patents in the United States and reportedly filed nearly half the patents in the world.

In the 1960s and 70s, before the development of extensive private Japanese research capabilities, the trade ministry played an important role in guiding Japanese research efforts aimed at developing key technologies in areas such as computers and semiconductors.

But as trade friction has intensified, the ministry has begun calling for a reversal of its old export-first orientation and for more attention to the needs of Japanese consumers.

"It's time to look to see what are the root causes of trade irritation, and as a country which now produces 15 per cent of the world's gross national product, to cope with them as quickly as possible," Nishimura said.

"After attaining economic growth on the basis of technology imported from the West, it is time for Japan to export its technology to the rest of the world," he added.

The report said Japan bought 65.9 billion yen (\$439 million) more technology from overseas in 1988 than it sold, while the United States sold 1.1 trillion yen (\$7.3 billion) more than it acquired.

The ratio of Japanese technology exports to imports has increased but "it's still a deficit," Nishimura said.

World tin body dissolves itself

LONDON (R) — With no staff and no office left to meet in, the once-powerful International Tin Council (ITC) dissolved itself Tuesday five years after it went bust trying to regulate the world market in tin.

The ITC, whose collapse in October 1985 sent the price of the metal tumbling from \$8.10 (now \$15,000) a tonne to \$3,400 (\$6,300) even had to borrow the headquarters of the International Sugar Organisation to formally wind itself up, and went through the formality of declaring itself finished on a press release.

The collapse of the ITC underlined the frailty of international pacts to regulate commodity trade.

The London-based ITC comprised 23 states, grouping major tin producers and consumers. Under the 1956 international tin agreement it kept prices within a fixed range by buying when they were low and selling when they were high.

Its heyday was the 1960s and 1970s, when the council had muscle in the market, and 80 per cent

of world tin production in its control.

But by the mid-1980s, production from non-members such as China and Brazil was rising while the ITC was running short of cash to keep the price at what had become artificially high levels compared with the free market value.

It ran out of funds after member states failed to pay sufficient contributions to finance a buffer stock and the crunch came in October 1985 when it told the London Metal Exchange (LME) it could no longer support the market. Tin prices subsequently crashed.

The collapse brought huge claims against the ITC from metal brokers and banks who spent the next four years trying to claim compensation.

The brokers, who had been buying the tin on behalf of the ITC, were left holding tin which the ITC was unable to pay for and which had lost its value. Banks had lent money to the ITC, with tin warrants as collateral. The value of the collateral also

dropped.

The creditors claimed some £500 million (now \$930 million) in one of the biggest cases of commercial default. But they met little success after British courts ruled the ITC immune from legal action.

After much haggling, the ITC and the 36 creditors finally shook hands on a £182.5 million (now \$340 million) settlement in December, which was paid in March 1990.

All court cases have now been dropped against the ITC, which only kept going to reach a settlement.

Most other commodity price support schemes to help Third World countries also crumbled during the 1980s. International pacts to stabilise sugar, coffee and cocoa prices are all in limbo, with the organisations themselves mostly reduced to statistical operations. Only a rubber pact remains in force.

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Armenia parliament defies Gorbachev order to disarm

MOSCOW (AP) — Lawmakers in Soviet Armenia have rejected President Mikhail Gorbachev's decree that armed groups in the republic must turn in their weapons and disarm, a local activist said.

The parliament voted to defy Gorbachev, saying his July 25 decree "contradicts the natural right of the Armenian people for self-defence" as outlined in Armenia's constitution and in the United Nations Charter, said Ovanes Muradian, a spokesman for the Armenian National Movement.

Soviet television reported Monday night that Gorbachev's decree was being ignored, with few weapons seized and armed attacks continuing in Armenia. In addition, the leadership of the Republic of Georgia appealed to the public for order, citing an increase in lawlessness and activity by armed groups.

The decree was Gorbachev's latest attempt to stem more than two years of ethnic unrest in the southern Caucasus and Central Asian republics that has killed more than 400 people, caused millions of rubles (dollars) in damage and produced thousands of refugees.

Soviet Interior Minister Vadim Bakatin said last week that military force would be used if the decree were disobeyed. He acknowledged there could be implementation problems if Moscow does not have the republics' full cooperation.

In voting to suspend Gorbachev's decree on Armenia and the disputed region of Nagorno-Karabakh, Muradian said the parliament also declared the republic could police itself, without "outside interference."

The parliament, or Supreme Soviet, rejected Gorbachev's decree "to prevent possible conflicts and mutual bloodshed between the armed forces of the USSR and the Armenian population," Muradian quoted the lawmakers' resolution as saying.

"Soviet army and interior troops have no right to exercise any punitive actions on Armenian territory without permission of the Supreme Soviet of the republic," the resolution said.

The lawmakers were willing to negotiate with Gorbachev on the issue, Muradian added, speaking by telephone from Armenia's capital of Yerevan. He did not provide a vote total.

Gorbachev's decree gave illegally armed militants 15 days to turn in their weapons or risk having them confiscated by local police, officials of the republics or Interior Ministry troops.

The decree encompassed all groups that threatened lives, seized arms, assaulted soldiers or police, or attacked military and civilian facilities.

The Soviet television news programme Vremya, citing Soviet Interior Ministry sources, reported Monday night that residents in various trouble spots were not obeying the Gorbachev decree.

The decree also had no effect in Nagorno-Karabakh, a mostly Armenian enclave inside the neighbouring republic of Azerbaijan, Vremya said.

According to the unofficial Postfactum News Service, representatives of the military commandant's office in Stepanakert, the main city in Nagorno-Karabakh, called the situation tense and expected it to worsen because of the decree.

Besides Armenia, Bakatin said illegally armed groups operate in Moldova, Georgia, Azerbaijan, Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia.

Bakatin estimated that up to 20,000 Armenians were involved in such groups, but said others put the figure as high as 100,000.

Bakatin said Interior Ministry troops would be sent to republics requesting them, and army troops could go in if a state of emergency were declared. He said many local officials were swept up in the same nationalism as their neighbours and were powerless to stop ethnic fighting.

In Armenia, troops have seized 6,000 firearms, including 1,500 automatic weapons, Bakatin said.

Interior Ministry soldiers already patrol the Armenia-Azerbaijan border. At least 200 people have been killed, mostly over who should govern Nagorno-Karabakh, which has been controlled by Azerbaijan since 1923.

Meanwhile, Gorbachev left Monday on his vacation in the Crimea, in southern Russia, the TASS news agency announced.

The one-sentence item provided no other details on his trip. Gorbachev usually takes about a month's vacation in August.

The new session of the Supreme Soviet legislature, expected to take up the critical economic plan for the nation, convenes on Sept. 3.

In a separate dispatch, TASS reported that Gorbachev expressed his gratitude to various Communist Party officials, groups and Soviet citizens congratulating him on his election as general secretary at the 28th Communist Party congress.

Opposition leaders: Gorbachev's time is gone

WASHINGTON (AP) — They are devout, intense, orthodox in their Russian religion and orthodox in their politics, men from Moscow who contend that the only way to reform the Soviet Union is to dissolve it.

They are telling Americans in and out of government that while their nation needs aid — massive aid — it should not be channelled through President Mikhail Gorbachev, a man whose time, they say, has gone.

Instead, they want the West to work with individual republics like Russia, which local governments and with independent cooperatives, businesses and organisations like their Christian Democratic Party.

Sipping ice water in a conference room at the conservative think tank that is sponsoring their week-long U.S. visit, they take turns telling, through an interpreter, of plans and goals that seem far beyond their reach.

Gleb Yakunin, a Russian Orthodox Priest; Victor Aksyuchits, the party chairman, and Valery Borshchov, a member of the Moscow City Council, use differing words to preach the same political sermon — U.S. policy should not be tied to Gorbachev's government.

Yakunin's black cassock and silver cross do not fit the image of a political figure, but his

word do. And he seems to be first among this political threesome, all threatened as dissidents, and Yakunin imprisoned, before the reforms for which they credit Gorbachev.

"Gorbachev has done great historic service by starting this process," Yakunin said. "But now... events have gone beyond him."

"So we need new forces now, to carry through the reform," said Aksyuchits. "The Communist Party is not capable of doing it."

The aims and agenda these three men outline sounds impractical, unrealistic, far beyond reach.

But it bears mention that only eight months ago, Vytautas Landsbergis, a quiet music teacher and parliamentarian, came to Washington to tell the few who would listen that Lithuanians meant to declare independence from the Soviet Union, and wanted the United States to help make it stick.

He got to see an assistant secretary of state. Then he went home and became president of a breakaway Lithuania.

Yakunin, Aksyuchits and Borshchov are making the rounds at the State Department, the Capitol and have an appointment to see White House Chief of Staff John H. Sununu.

They won't gain encouragement for their suggestion that the United States and the West work around Gorbachev, instead of through his government.

Although the Bush administration has said it is seeking contacts with some opposition political and economic movements in the Soviet Union, diplomacy and economic business are conducted on a government-to-government basis. That means U.S. officials deal with Gorbachev.

The administration wants his policies to succeed. While President George Bush has rejected direct U.S. economic aid, West Germany is offering assistance, beginning with \$3.1 billion in guaranteed bank loans. Other European allies may help, too. The United States has not ruled out technical assistance and advice.

The opposition politicians agree that aid is needed but want it routed to political and economic organisations they say can make up a new "civil society" to take over from Communism.

"The West shouldn't place all its bets on Gorbachev," said Aksyuchits. "That would be a mistake."

"It's necessary to deal not with yesterday's structures, but with tomorrow's structures," Yakunin said. "The Soviet

empire is the last great empire, and the time has come for this great empire to leave the stage of history."

He said it will be replaced by a looser but lasting political union among Soviet republics.

The three Russians came to New York and Washington under the sponsorship of the Free Congress Foundation, a conservative political organisation that has been conducting training missions on the democratic process for opposition parties and their leaders in the Soviet Union and in Eastern Europe.

Their Russian Christian Democratic Movement was founded in 1987. When opposition political parties were legalised earlier this year, it became one. Their platform is a densely worded blend of religion and politics. They claim broad popular support in Russia.

Yakunin couldn't guess how many opposition parties have been created in the Soviet Union this year. "Nobody really knows," he said. "Dozens and dozens. Like soap bubbles. Some disappear."

He said a handful will be the forces of democracy in the future, and the Christian Democrats will be one of them.

Those claims of party strength are subject to proof. The power of the independent political movements already is on display.

COLUMN

Gabor leaves jail

EL SEGUNDO, California (AP) — Zsa Zsa Gabor Monday left the media-besieged jail where she chose to spend her 72-hour sentence for slapping a Beverly Hills police officer. Surrounded by about 100 reporters and onlookers and at least one heckler who told her to go back to Hungary, Miss Gabor, 72, said she spent her jail time doing secretarial work that was slightly hampered by her ignorance of the alphabet. "I had to file, but I don't know the ABCs," she said. "I did very well."

Miss Gabor said that on returning to her Bel-Air home, "I want to take a hot bath and talk to my dogs and my horses." On Friday, Miss Gabor began her 72-hour sentence for slapping a policeman during a traffic stop last year. She paid \$85 a day to do her time at the El Segundo jail rather than have the county pick accommodations for her. "I was very happy surprised," she said of her stay in the Los Angeles suburb known for its refineries and aerospace offices and factories. "Everybody was warm and nice and sweet. It was OK." The Beverly Hills Police should "come and take lessons" from this police.

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Dudley Moore, wife call it quits

LOS ANGELES (AP) — British actor Dudley Moore and Brogan Lane are calling it quits after 2 1/2 years of marriage. A superior court divorce petition filed Thursday cited irreconcilable differences. The couple has been separated since July 15. Moore, 55, and Miss Lane, 34, were married Feb. 21, 1988. It was Moore's third marriage and Lane's second. The couple has no children. Moore chased Bo Derek in "10" and starred as a lovable lush in Arthur. Lane is a model and aspiring actress.

Teenage girl, family reunite after 14 years

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — A 17-year-old girl has been reunited with her family 14 years after she was allegedly kidnapped. "I didn't believe I'd ever see my parents again," said Natasha Harms, a mixed-race girl who has been living with a black family east of Johannesburg. Natasha recently told social workers she had been abducted by the family when she was a child. Social workers removed Natasha from the family, which had given her a new name and made her do much of the cooking. But Natasha told authorities she could not recall the names of her parents. Government-run television broadcast her story Saturday night in an effort to help her locate her real family. Her parents, Cedric and Shireen Harms, saw the programme and thought the girl might be their daughter, who vanished while the family was on a shopping trip in downtown Johannesburg in 1976. The couple contacted police Sunday and was able to confirm that Natasha was their daughter. "I was quite numb," said Mrs. Harms. "I can't speak to Natasha like I want to. She speaks Zulu and doesn't speak English too well. A black woman has been arrested in connection with the alleged kidnapping, police said."

Man wielding syringe robs 3 stores

SYDNEY (AP) — A man wielding a syringe robbed three stores this weekend, and the assailant told one shopkeeper it was infected with the AIDS virus before squirting her with what appeared to be blood. Police said they were uncertain whether the same man carried out the three robberies. The syringe in each case carried a hypodermic needle, and scientists were analysing a hypodermic dropped outside one store. On Sunday afternoon, a man entered a newsstand in the northern suburb of Crenorne and demanded money from clerk Debbie Bright. "I looked at him and then I looked at the needle," said Ms. Bright, 23. "I saw him staring at the syringe and said: 'Yes it is. This is an AIDS-infected needle.'" Ms. Bright picked up a candy jar and yelled to a co-worker for help. The assailant then squirted the contents of the syringe on her face. When she screamed, the man escaped fled without taking any money. "The chances of me getting AIDS is virtually nil," Ms. Bright said. "But I will still have to have blood tests. I will not know for sure for three months." Two hours later, a man held up a pharmacist in the northern suburb of Crows Nest. The man ran off and dropped the syringe after the 23-year-old employee handed him money.

IRA claims killing British lawmaker

LONDON (AP) — The Irish Republican Army (IRA) Tuesday claimed responsibility for killing lawmaker Ian Gow, a close friend of Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher.

The IRA claim was made in a statement to Press Association, Britain's domestic news agency. Gow was killed Monday morning by a bomb that exploded underneath his car at his home in Hankham, southeast England.

The IRA said Gow was killed because of his close association with Thatcher and because he was "one of a small group of influential Tories...who in the late 1970s formulated the British policy pursued in Ireland since the 1979 Tory election victory."

Thatcher said she was determined that Gow's death would make no difference in her government's fight against the IRA. Scotland Yard's chief anti-terrorist officer, George Churchill-Coleman, had said Monday that the attack appeared to be the work of the IRA.

Dressed in mourning black, Thatcher attended a service in memory of Gow Monday night at the Anglican Parish Church in the village of Hankham, 95 kilometres south of London, where Gow lived with his wife, Jane.

Gow, a 53-year-old legislator who was on an IRA hit list, was killed Monday morning by a bomb attached under his car. It exploded when he got into the vehicle, parked outside his home.

He was chairman of the Northern Ireland Committee in the House of Commons. The committee discusses the affairs of the province, where the IRA is fighting British rule, but has no power over legislation.

The Independent newspaper said Tuesday: "The assassination of Ian Gow may represent an attempt by the IRA to cause personal hurt to Margaret Thatcher and goad her into overreacting to his death. ...His symbolic importance lay in his close association with the prime minister."

"The Gow and Thatcher families were close and often spent Christmas together. Gow was Thatcher's parliamentary private secretary from 1979, when she came to power, until 1983. In the post, he served as her adviser and liaison with members of Commons."

Looking somber and shaken, Thatcher told reporters in London before leaving for Hankham that the slaying would make no difference in her Conservative government's fight against terrorism.

"We love Ian and Jane and they love very much. They are very close friends. ...I could talk to him like nobody else," she said.

Jaruzelski denies Walesa charges; to step down early

BRUSSELS (R) — Poland's president said in an interview published Tuesday he would step down early but rejected charges by Solidarity leader Lech Walesa that he was the main obstacle to reform.

"I cannot imagine that I will be able to complete my term," Wojciech Jaruzelski told the Belgian business daily L'Echo de la Bourse. "It will finish much earlier (than scheduled)."

Walesa, who led Solidarity trade union to sweeping victory in Poland's first opposition-contested elections in four decades and is now angling for the presidency, has said the former Communist ruler is a symbol of the past who should be removed.

Jaruzelski did not say when he would step down but indicated moves by Solidarity to dislodge him could succeed. A proposal last week by Walesa supporters for his immediate resignation gained support from about a quarter of the 400-member parliament.

Jaruzelski, elected a year ago for a six-year term, said in an apparent jibe at Walesa that the next president should be highly educated and even-tempered.

"If one is going to represent a nation of 40 million people, one must have a certain intellectual and cultural format," said Jaruzelski, who comes from a minor aristocratic family. "I think such men must exist in Poland."

Walesa's detractors have said he lacks education, is authoritarian and unpredictable.

Jaruzelski rejected Walesa's accusation that he was the main hurdle to reform. He said he had stopped voicing opinions or making proposals which could be seen as interfering.

More than 100 members of parliament have signed a petition urging Jaruzelski to resign, newspapers reported Monday.

The signatures were gathered late Friday by members of the Centre Alliance, a 2-month-old political organisation that backs the election of Walesa to replace Jaruzelski this fall, said the government-owned daily Rzeczpospolita.

Jaruzelski told the Sejm, the 460-member lower house of parliament, Saturday that he endorses plans to hold a debate in September on the proper timing of new presidential and parliamentary elections.

Communists win majority in Mongolian elections

ULAN BATOR (R) — Mongolia's ruling Communist Party, unchallenged for 69 years, has beaten democratic opposition parties to win a majority in the nation's first free elections, according to preliminary results.

Deputy chairman of the National Election Commission, Khmerbek, told a news conference Tuesday the Communists had won about 60 per cent of the seats in parliament's lower house and 85 per cent of the 402 seats decided in the 430-seat upper house.

Foreign diplomats said that despite their majority, the Communists had lost more power than expected to loosely-allied democratic opposition parties. A high degree of political pluralism seemed assured, they added.

Democratic opposition party leaders hailed the result as the dawn of democracy for a people who can remember Stalinist purges, the desecration of monasteries, the murder of Buddhist high priests, an intrusive secret police and starvation.

"This is a great step forward," said Batbayar, head of the Social Democratic Party.

"These elections were the funeral for orthodox Communism. There has been a great darkness and the change to light has been so sudden," he added.

Mongolia, a land the size of Western Europe wedged between China and the Soviet Union, has been under one-party Communist rule since the Soviet Red Army marched in 1921 and installed a

government loyal to Moscow and isolated from the rest of the world.

Inspired by the collapse of Communism in Eastern Europe, a democratic movement sprang up last December and forced concession after concession from the Communists, culminating in Sunday's multi-party elections.

Both the Communist Party and the three main democracy opposition parties propose economic reform including free-market prices, private enterprise, hard currency foreign trade, luring foreign investors and opening up to the capitalist West. The two sides differ on the speed and degree of such reform.

Foreign observers said the elections were basically fair but wildly erratic. "No tricks, much mess," was how Maciej Jankowski, an observer from the Polish Solidarity Movement, summed up the polls.

About 91.9 per cent of a suffrage of around one million voted in the poll. Election officials rode out on tractors, motorbikes and horseback to take ballot boxes to elderly or sick nomads in Mongolian tents (yurts) pitched high on remote mountain pastures.

Counting procedures have been bedevilled by the fact that Communist Party members could run for the opposition without relinquishing their party membership, observers said.

Western nations are watching Mongolia's elections to see if the country will honour its promises of espousing free-market democracy.

Tamil Tigers kill 14 Muslims

COLOMBO (Agencies) — Suspected Tamil separatist guerrillas lined up and shot dead 14 Muslims and wounded three in a town in eastern Sri Lanka, residents said Tuesday.

They said early morning shoppers at Akkaraipattu town found the bullet-riddled bodies in pools of blood. Ten rice farmers were among the dead.

Residents said they believed the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) guerrillas fighting security forces in the north and east were involved in the attack Monday night.

Military sources in Colombo confirmed the killing but had no details.

The sources said 10 Tamil civilians were killed Monday night by suspected Muslim villagers in a revenge attack at Kantalai village in eastern Trincomalee district.

Earlier Monday, a Muslim man was killed by the Tigers in the same village because his relative worked for the army, the sources said.

President Ranasinghe Premadasa Tuesday flew to the war-torn eastern district of Amparai, near Akkaraipattu, to review security and facilities for refugees.

An Akkaraipattu resident said by telephone that shops had closed soon after the discovery of the bodies.

"People are tense. They fear further attacks," he said. Police commandos patrolled the streets.

A spokesman for the eastern-based Muslim Congress said the Tigers seized 10 rice farmers who were returning from harvesting and seven others from shops.

"They were asked to line up and their hands tied with their shirts. The gunmen opened fire and ran away. The 14 died on the spot while three were injured," a Congress spokesman said.

He said the Tigers were trying to create a communal clash to turn the eyes of the world and the attention of the government away from the war front.

The Congress spokesman said that according to their estimates 295 Muslims had been killed by the Tigers since the war began. This could not be independently confirmed.

The Akkaraipattu attack was the fourth major strike on Muslims by the Tigers in the current wave of fighting.

Last Saturday, Tiger fighters stormed into a mosque and killed five Muslims who had just finished their prayers, military sources said.

They said three others were injured in the attack in Samanturai, also in Amparai district. Four days earlier, Tigers entered another mosque in the same area and opened fire, killing two people including the preacher and injuring four.

The rebels killed 60 Muslims after ambushing three lorries and two buses in which they were travelling in eastern Batticaloa district on July 15, the government said.

In other incidents, two policemen were killed and three seriously wounded in an explosion in an old Dutch fort in northern Jaffna Monday, military sources said.

2 Kashmir separatist leaders arrested

SRINAGAR, India (Agencies) — Security forces captured two Kashmiri separatist leaders and enforced a strict curfew in sensitive areas of Indian-ruled Kashmir Tuesday to prevent protests during a Cairo meeting of Islamic foreign ministers.

Police in Srinagar, summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir, India's only Muslim-majority state, said Mian Abdul Qayyum and Ashraf Sahrai were grabbed in a raid on a village near the border with Pakistan-ruled Kashmir Monday night.

Qayyum was appointed chairman of an 11-group alliance called the Tehrik-E-Hadiyat Kashmir (Movement for the Liberation of Kashmir) four months ago. He immediately went underground.

Sahrai was another leader of the Kashmiri militant campaign which flared into major violence in January. Some 40 groups are fighting Indian rule, some aiming for a reunited and independent Kashmir, others to unite with Pakistan.

Police said the arrests were a breakthrough in curbing the activities of militant groups which called for protests in the Kashmir Valley Tuesday to coincide with the opening of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) meeting.

One of the groups, the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF), has urged the 46 OIC members to endorse Kashmiris' right to self-determination and condemn "the savagery of Indian forces of occupation."

Pakistan, an OIC member and the main backer of the Kashmiri cause, has proposed a resolution for the conference.

Kashmir has been the cause of two of the three wars India and Pakistan have fought since independence from Britain in 1947. Two-thirds of Kashmir is ruled by India and the rest by Pakistan.

At least 10 people were killed in separatist violence in the valley in the 24 hours ending at noon Tuesday, bringing the unofficial death toll since January to about 1,000.

Japanese extremists burn 3 shrines

TOKYO (AP) — Wooden buildings at three Shinto shrines burned down in western Japan early Tuesday, police said.

The fires broke out almost simultaneously — between 1:19 a.m. (1619 GMT) and 1:32 a.m. (1632 GMT) — at three Shinto shrines in Nara Prefecture (state), police said.

The shrines are widely identified with the history of the imperial family. Extremists opposed to the coronation of Emperor Akihito, scheduled for November, may have been responsible, said

an official at Nara Prefecture Police Department, speaking on condition of anonymity.

No injuries were reported, but six buildings were destroyed. The shrines are located in Kashihara, Yamatotakada, and Gose, he said.

Shintoism is Japan's indigenous religion based on nature worship, Shamanism and elaborate ceremonial rites.

He said the police have so far found several batteries and pieces of lead. Such objects could have been used to trigger fire bombs.

Cambodian ruling Communists expel minister for 'betrayal'

BANGKOK (R) — Cambodia's ruling Communist Party, waging an increasingly tough war against Khmer Rouge guerrillas, has expelled a government minister from its ranks for betraying the crusade against Pol Pot, state radio said.

The Kampuchean People's Revolutionary Party, formed by Khmer Rouge defectors and installed as Cambodia's ruler by Vietnam in 1979, has in recent months sacked senior liberals in the government, according to diplomats in Phnom Penh.

"The party Central Committee decided to expel Ung Phan from the party Central Committee and the party due to his betrayal of the party and the nation's historic tasks," the radio Monday quoted a party communiqué as saying.

A transcript of the broadcast was made available Tuesday. Torn between liberalising and strengthening its grip in the wide-ranging guerrilla war, Cambodia's ruling party in May and June purged the government of liberals it accused of trying to undermine its control.

Diplomats in Phnom Penh said Ung Phan and at least five others were fired for forming a separate party. The constitution allows freedom of association but says the Communist Party is the leading force of the nation.

Government radio has said it

foiled a coup plot but did not identify the plotters.

Since the withdrawal of Vietnamese troops last September the Hun Sen government, for years isolated as a puppet of Hanoi, has won increasing international sympathy for its battle against the Khmer Rouge.

But it also faces heavy cuts in aid from its Soviet allies and receives only small-scale humanitarian aid from Western nations.

The Khmer Rouge, claiming popular support despite the carnage of their 1975-9 rule in which one million Cambodians are said to have died, face growing Western revulsion for their past under Pol Pot, still believed to dominate the radical group, and efforts to keep them out of a political settlement.

Khmer Rouge radio has reported that its guerrillas overran the district town of Kampot, one of the country's main ports.

The Cambodia party, ending a week-long meeting of its 65-member Central Committee, called on the nation to rally round the party to boost confidence in the government.

"The Central Committee would like to appeal to the entire party, all armed forces and all people to consolidate their internal unity around the party," the radio said.

It also welcomed a U.S. decision to end support for the

he said.

Of the three ancient shrines, the Iwasononi Imasu Taku Mushitama Shrine in Yamatotakada city was most heavily damaged. Its main building and the hall of worship, totalling 170 square metres were destroyed.

Nara, the nation's capital between 710 and 794, has many sites related to the imperial family.

Police believe that two other incidents, in which two stolen cars in Nara were bombed on the same day, may be connected to the fires.

Khmer Rouge-dominated coalition and open talks with Vietnam on preventing the radical guerrillas from returning to power.

The Khmer Rouge radio station said Monday its forces had overrun the port, southeast of Phnom Penh and only 40 kilometres from the Vietnamese border, on July 24.

A transcript of the broadcast, made available in Bangkok on Tuesday, did not say how long guerrillas were in the town but said they killed 19 government soldiers and wounded 45.

The radio said last week that its forces had attacked positions near the port, including the railway station at Kompong Trach, 30 kilometres east of Kampot.

The radio report said government forces were deployed to try to retake the town the following day but were ambushed by the guerrillas.

There has been no official report of fighting at Kampot, which is on the railway line from Phnom